



WHAT'S WHERE ON EARTH

ATLAS

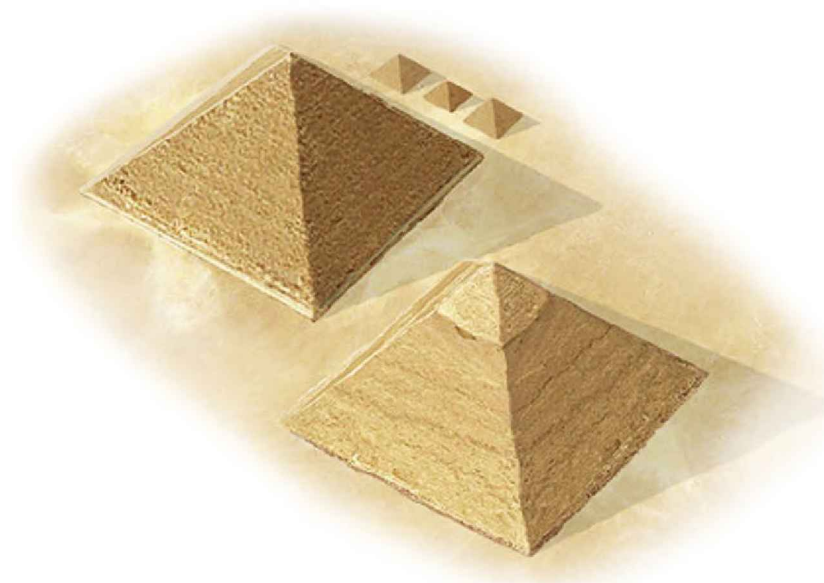


THE WORLD AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE!



WHAT'S WHERE ON EARTH

ATLAS





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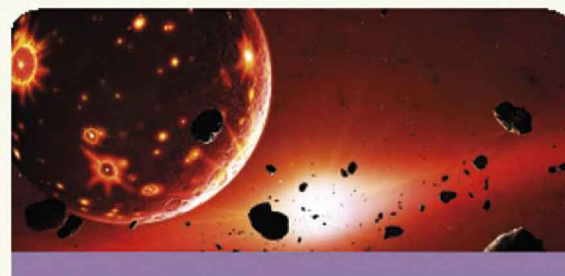
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CONTENTS



Early Earth

Introduction	6
500–380 million years ago	8
300–220 million years ago	10
180–80 million years ago	12
40 million years ago–	
Present day	14



North America

Countries and borders	18
Landscape	20
Fascinating facts	22
Population	24
The Grand Canyon	26
Famous landmarks	28
Climate	30
Wildlife	32
By night	34



South America

Countries and borders	38
Landscape	40
Fascinating facts	42

Population	44
Amazon Basin	46
Famous landmarks	48
Climate	50
Wildlife	52
By night	54



Africa

Countries and borders	58
Landscape	60
Fascinating facts	62
Population	64
The Great Rift Valley	66
Famous landmarks	68
Climate	70
Wildlife	72
By night	74



Europe

Countries and borders	78
Landscape	80
Fascinating facts	82
Population	84
The Alps	86
Famous landmarks	88
Climate	90
Wildlife	92
By night	94



Asia

Countries and borders	98
Landscape	100
Fascinating facts	102
Population	104
The Himalayas	106
Famous landmarks	108
Climate	110
Wildlife	112
By night	114



Australia and Oceania

Countries and borders	118
Landscape	120
Fascinating facts	122
Population	124
New Zealand	126
Famous landmarks	128
Climate	130
Wildlife	132



Kangaroo

The South Pole



Polar regions

Antarctica	136
The Arctic	138



The oceans

Pacific Ocean	142
Atlantic Ocean	144
Indian Ocean	146



Reference

Countries of the world	150
Glossary	156
Index	158
Acknowledgements	160





EARLY EARTH

Under attack

Rock and debris from space crashed into Earth's surface during its early formation, turning it molten and triggering volcanic activity.

Early Earth

Earth's formation started shortly after the birth of the Sun, 4.6 billion years ago. A star exploding in nearby space caused a vast amount of interstellar dust to collapse in on itself. This formed our Sun, and over time the rest of the surrounding debris clumped together into planets. As these grew larger, their steadily increasing gravity pulled them into spheres. One of these was our planet, Earth, a rocky ball with a molten metal core, and a thin shell, called a crust, at its surface.

The layered interior structure of Earth emerged early in its evolution. Heat from Earth's molten core forced the crust, which is made up of large slabs of rock called tectonic plates, to move constantly. As these plates shunted around and crashed into each other, they caused earthquakes and fiery volcanoes, formed mountain ranges and entire continents, and helped create the conditions in which life could emerge.



This illustration shows the sequence of Earth's formation – from small fragments of rock and dust sticking together, to a planet with its own atmosphere.

Atmosphere

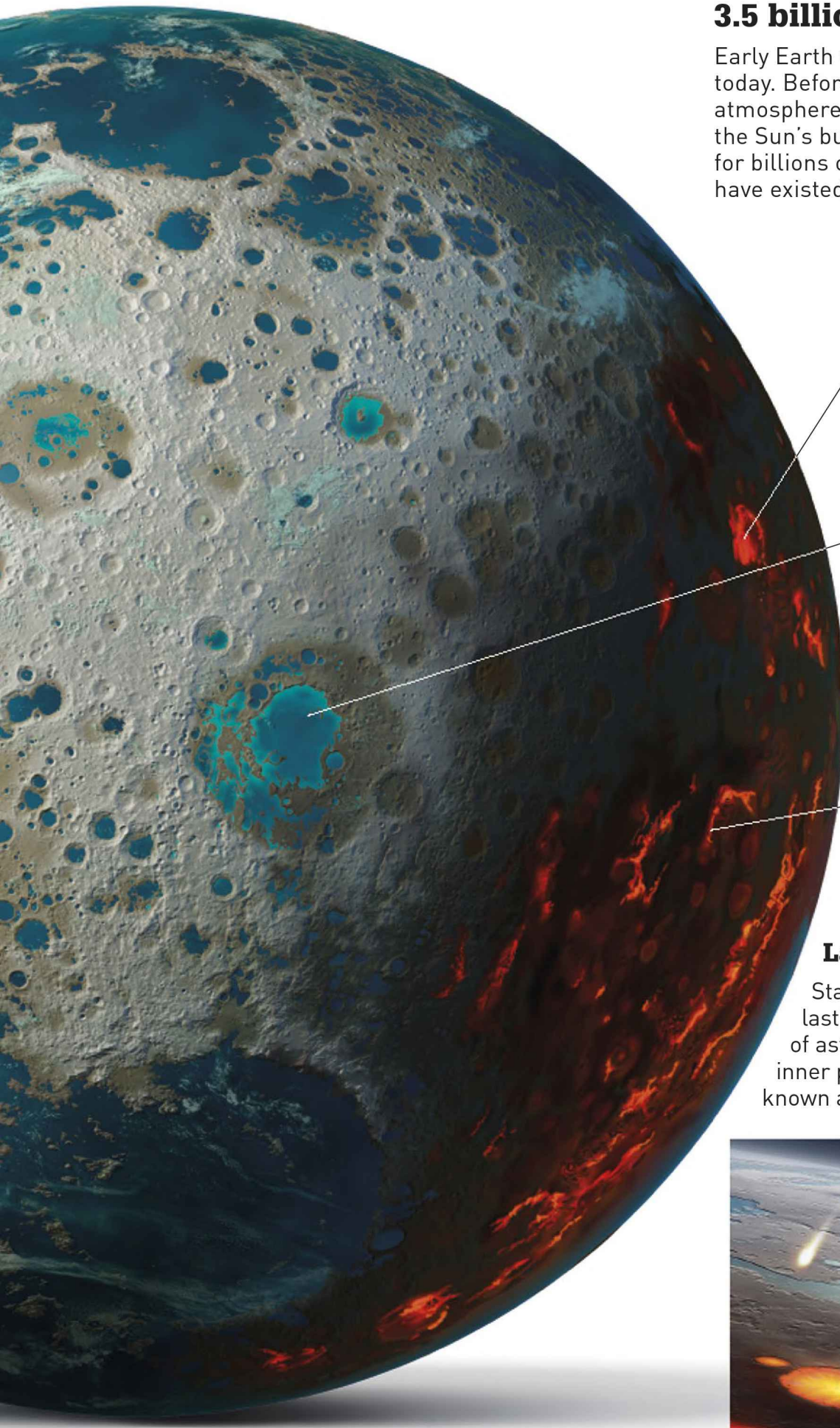
The air was heavy with carbon dioxide. Atmospheric pressure was higher than it is today, which allowed water to stay liquid at a far higher temperature than its modern boiling point.

Clouds

Clouds of water droplets could be seen in the sky, much as today.

First oceans

Liquid water, in which the first life formed, would have become permanent oceans at some time between 4.4 and 4.2 billion years ago.



3.5 billion years ago

Early Earth was quite different from the world we know today. Before the ozone layer developed in the atmosphere, exposed land was unprotected from the Sun's burning radiation, and remained lifeless for billions of years. However, conditions for life may have existed in the deep oceans and the shallow seas.

Lava flows

As asteroid impacts triggered volcanic activity, lava could fill craters.

Isolated oceans

Cooling seas, cut off from the violence going on elsewhere on the planet, may have provided the conditions from which the first life forms would emerge.

Volcanic activity

Volcanoes threw out minerals that, at calmer locations, may have helped produce the ingredients needed to create life.

Late Heavy Bombardment

Starting around 4.1 billion years ago and lasting for 200 million years, a huge number of asteroids crashed into the Solar System's inner planets, including Earth. This period is known as the Late Heavy Bombardment.

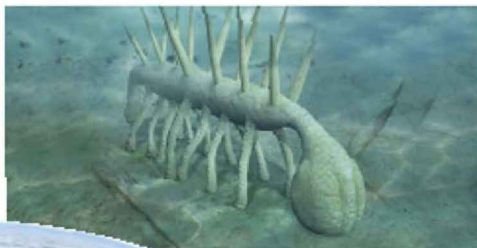


500 million years ago

By this stage of Earth's history two major continents had formed. The largest, Gondwana, was mainly tropical. Laurentia (now North America) had also drifted from the polar regions to the tropics and sat on the Equator. Temperatures were mild across the globe, but cooling.

In the water

Many life forms developed in the warm, shallow seas, including marine invertebrates such as *Hallucigenia*, a worm with limbs.



Hallucigenia



LAURENTIA



Reverse view

The giant continent of Gondwana sat on the tropics



Lifeless land

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were 15 times higher than today, and no animals could survive on land.



Early algae

There was no land vegetation, but many types of algae (plant-like organisms that live in the sea) had appeared and diversified.

420 million years ago

Continents continued to shift. Avalonia (now split across present-day southern Britain and Canada) moved north to collide with Laurentia. Siberia headed north and Gondwana south, taking most of present-day Australia and Antarctica into the southern hemisphere. Sea levels started to rise.



LAURENTIA



Reverse view

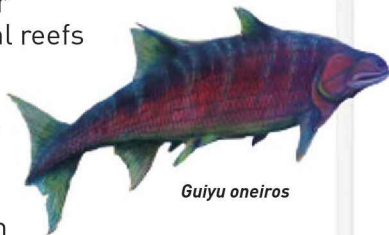
Animals

Millipedes, such as the one below, were the first known oxygen-breathing animals on land.

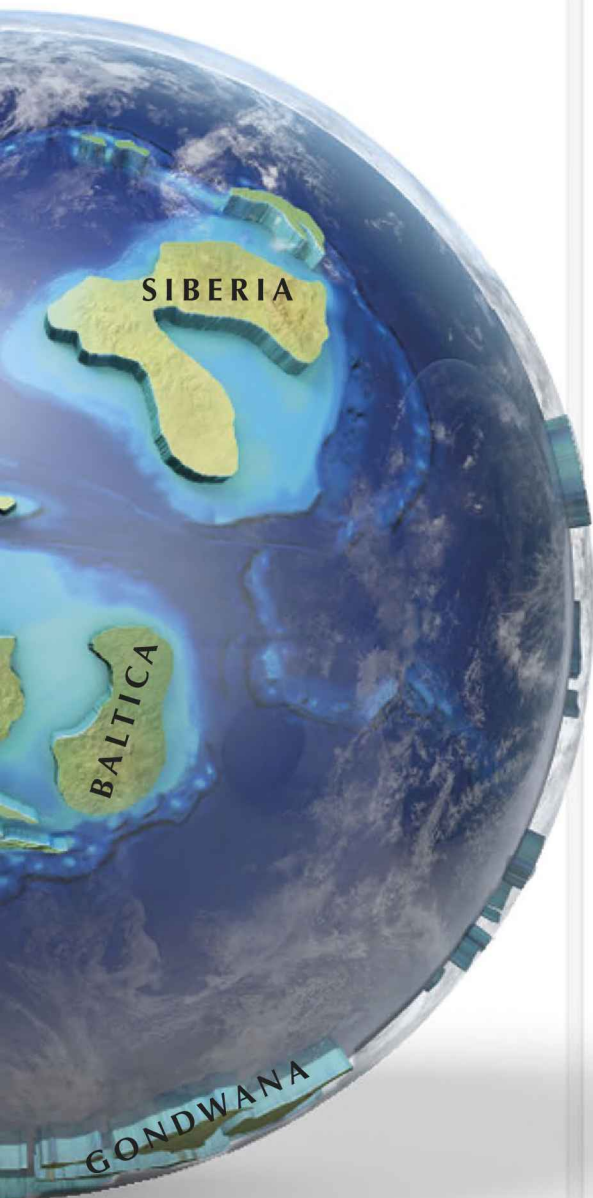


In the water

The first coral reefs and fish appeared. *Guiyu oneiros* remains dating back to 419 million years ago have been found in Yunnan province, China.



Guiyu oneiros

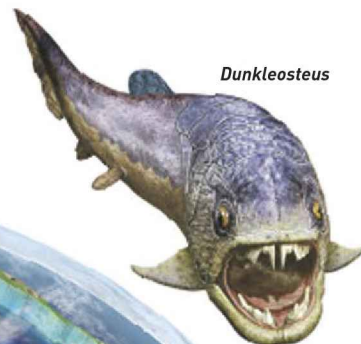


380 million years ago

Laurentia and Baltica collided, closing up the Iapetus Ocean and forming the continent of Eurasia. The collision created the Appalachian-Caledonide Mountain Range, which extended from Scandinavia to the Appalachian Mountains in North America. Gondwana rotated clockwise, approaching Eurasia.

In the water

The "Age of Fish" saw a variety of lobe-finned fish and jawed predators. Placoderms (armoured fish) included the mighty *Dunkleosteus*.



Dunkleosteus



Reverse view

Fish with legs

The first tetrapods (four-legged animals) developed. The earliest were like fish with legs, such as *Ichthyostega*.

Ichthyostega



Archaeopteris

Plants

The landmasses turned green as woody, spore-bearing plants such as *Archaeopteris*, a tree-like plant with ferny leaves, created major forests and swamps.



Plants

The tiny, but upright, *Cooksonia* was one of the first plants to colonize land. It was short, had branching stems, and lived in damp habitats.

Cooksonia



300 million years ago

By 300 million years ago, Eurasia had merged with Gondwana to form the supercontinent Pangea, which extended from high in the northern hemisphere to the South Pole, where ice caps spread. Siberia collided with eastern Europe, creating the Ural Mountains.

In the water

Fish and aquatic tetrapods, such as *Microbrachis* ("tiny limbs"), shared the seas with corals, crinoids (sea lilies), and brachiopods (molluscs).



Microbrachis



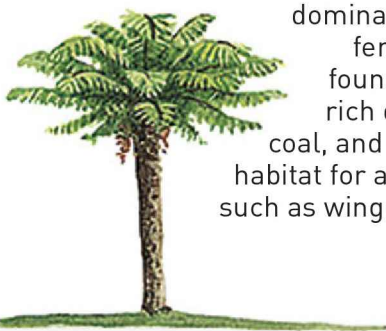
Reverse view

Animals

The shelled egg evolved, so tetrapods, such as *Ophiacodon*, could lay eggs on land without them drying out.



Ophiacodon

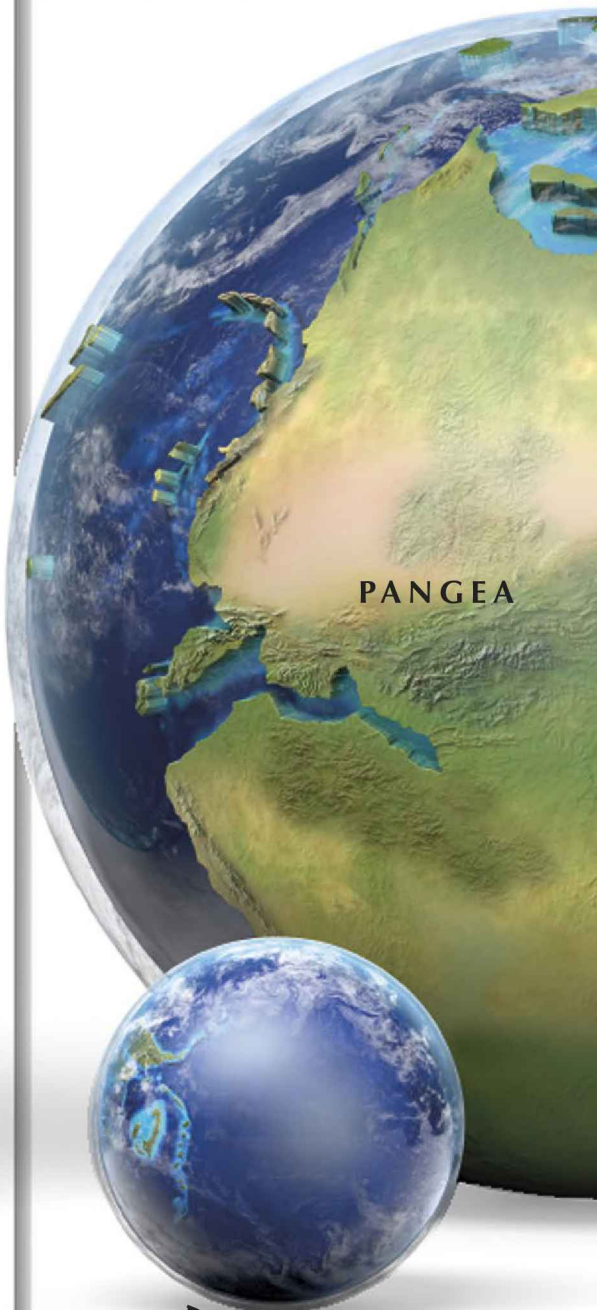


Plants

Lush swamps dominated by tree ferns laid the foundations for rich deposits of coal, and provided a habitat for arthropods, such as winged insects.

250 million years ago

All the continents were absorbed into the giant supercontinent Pangea. Global sea levels fell, while, in Siberia, massive volcanic eruptions poured out ash and gases, poisoning both the atmosphere and the oceans. Such events led to a global mass extinction.



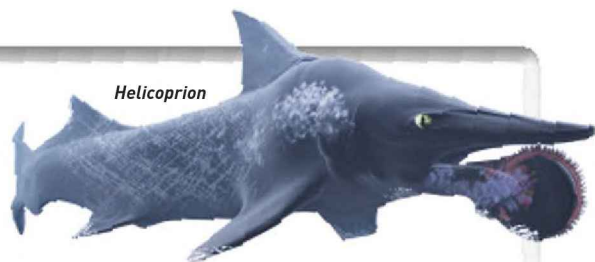
Reverse view

Animals

About 70 per cent of land species became extinct, including *Dimetrodon*.



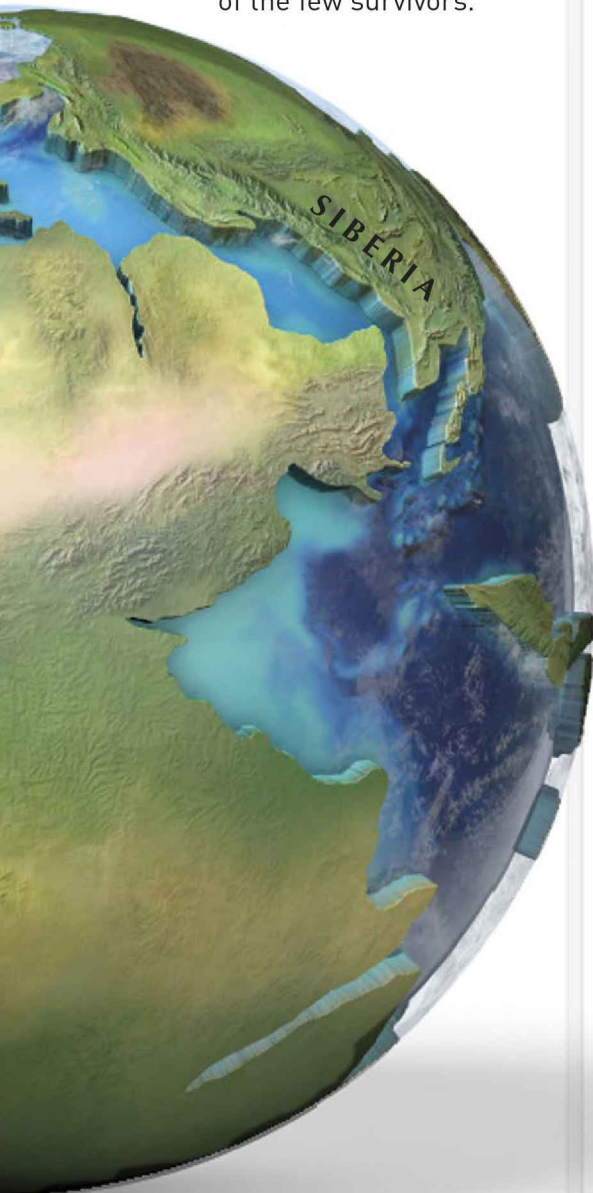
Dimetrodon



Helicoprion

In the water

Falling sea levels exposed reefs. An estimated 95 per cent of marine species died out in the mass extinction – *Helicoprion* was one of the few survivors.



220 million years ago

Pangea was at its largest – it extended from pole to pole – and sea levels had lowered. The supercontinent moved north, rotating anticlockwise. New life forms, including dinosaurs, started to evolve on the land.

In the water

Marine reptiles included turtles, frogs, crocodiles, and dolphin-like ichthyosaurs, such as *Mixosaurus*. Corals and molluscs also evolved new forms.



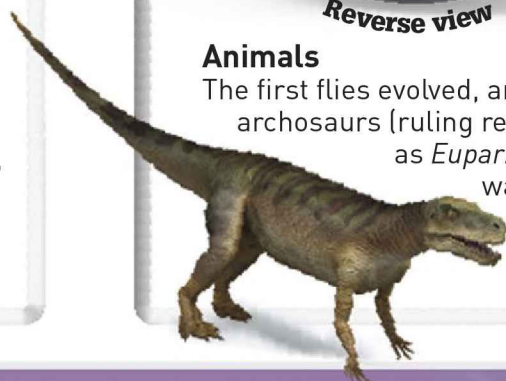
Mixosaurus



Reverse view

Animals

The first flies evolved, and early archosaurs (ruling reptiles), such as *Euparkeria*, paved the way for dinosaurs.



Euparkeria



Glossopteris

Plants

Half of all plant species died out. *Glossopteris*, widespread for 50 million years, declined, as did conifers, horsetails, and ferns.

Dicroidium



Plants

Vegetation adapted to the dry climate. Flora included conifers and the seed fern *Dicroidium*, which was distributed throughout Pangea.

180 million years ago

The supercontinent Pangea separated into Laurasia in the north and Gondwana in the south, divided by the ever-growing Tethys Ocean. The climate was warm with no evidence of glaciation.

Tethys Ocean – formed when the supercontinent Pangea split into two.

In the water

The oceans were full of fish and marine reptiles, such as *Ichthyosaurus*, as well as bivalves (such as mussels), starfish, and sea urchins.



Ichthyosaurus



Reverse view



Barapasaurus

Animals

Dinosaurs dominated the land during this period. Among them was the giant, plant-eating *Barapasaurus*.



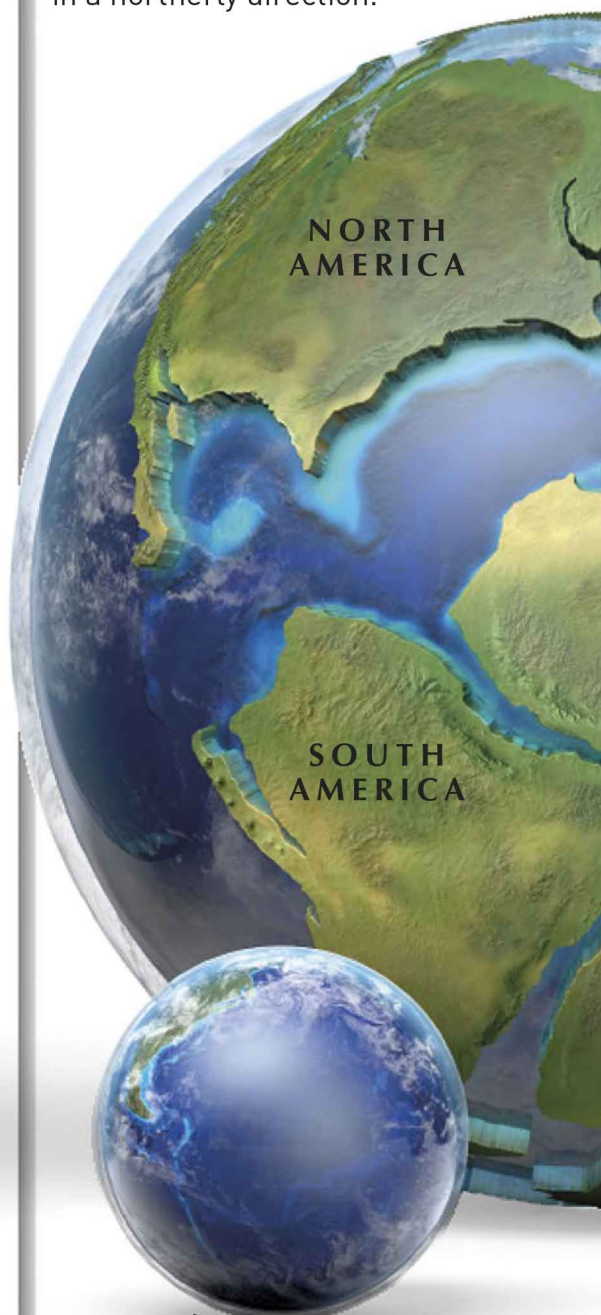
Monkey puzzle tree

Plants

Conifers, ginkgo, and monkey puzzle trees, dominated Laurasia. There were also ferns and palm-like cycads further south in tropical regions.

120 million years ago

Today's oceans began to take shape. The South Atlantic Ocean opened up as Africa and South America split apart, splintering Pangea further. North America was still attached to Europe, but India separated from western Australia and started to move in a northerly direction.



Reverse view



Psittacosaurus

Animals

Dinosaurs, such as *Psittacosaurus*, ruled the land. The first mammals and marsupials appeared, and birds filled the skies.

In the water

Archelon (giant sea turtles) and other sea reptiles flourished. New species of strangely coiled creatures called ammonoids thrived, as did sea snails and anemones.



Archelon



80 million years ago

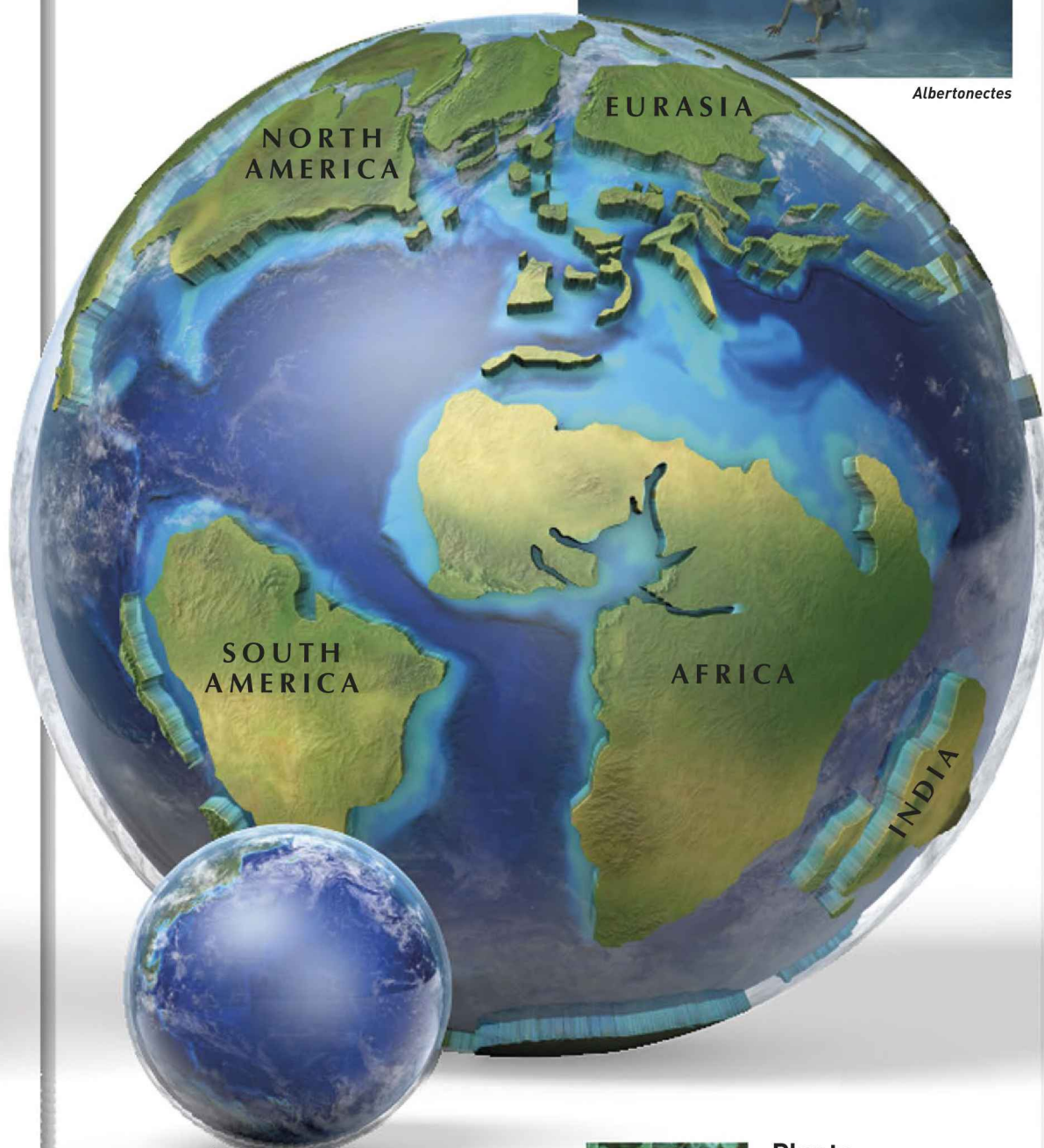
High sea levels flooded much of North America and created a seaway that extended from the Gulf of Mexico to the newly forming Atlantic Ocean. By 65 million years ago, India had collided with Asia, causing volcanic eruptions. An asteroid had hit Mexico, causing a mass extinction.

In the water

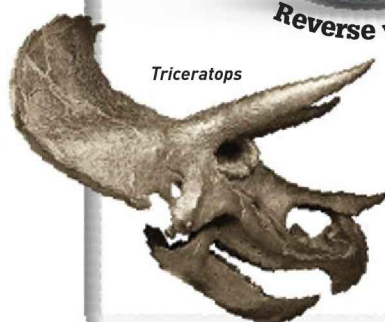
New types of shellfish continued to evolve and peculiar sea reptiles, such as the long-necked *Albertonectes*, came into being.



Albertonectes



Reverse view



Triceratops

Animals

New dinosaurs evolved, including *Triceratops*. Snakes, ants, and termites also emerged.



Plants

The first angiosperms (flowering plants), such as magnolia, colonized the land, evolving alongside pollinating insects, including bees.



Plants

More flowering plants started to appear on land. Conifers and palm-like cycads spread, thanks to the success of their seed-bearing cones.

40 million years ago

North and South America were separate, and Antarctica split away from Australia. These isolated landmasses saw animals and plants develop independently. Mountain ranges, such as the Rocky Mountains and the Himalayas, formed along plate margins, and the closing of the Tethys Ocean forced up the Alps.

In the water

Single-celled plankton were at their most diverse and coral reefs grew. At the other end of the size scale, *Basilosaurus* was an early whale.

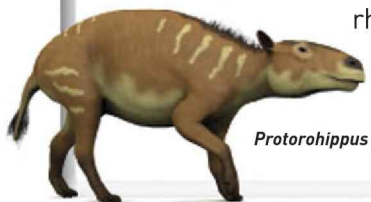
Basilosaurus



Reverse view

Animals

Moths, butterflies, birds, and bats flew above new mammals, such as rhinos, camels, and early horses, like *Protorohippus*.



Protorohippus

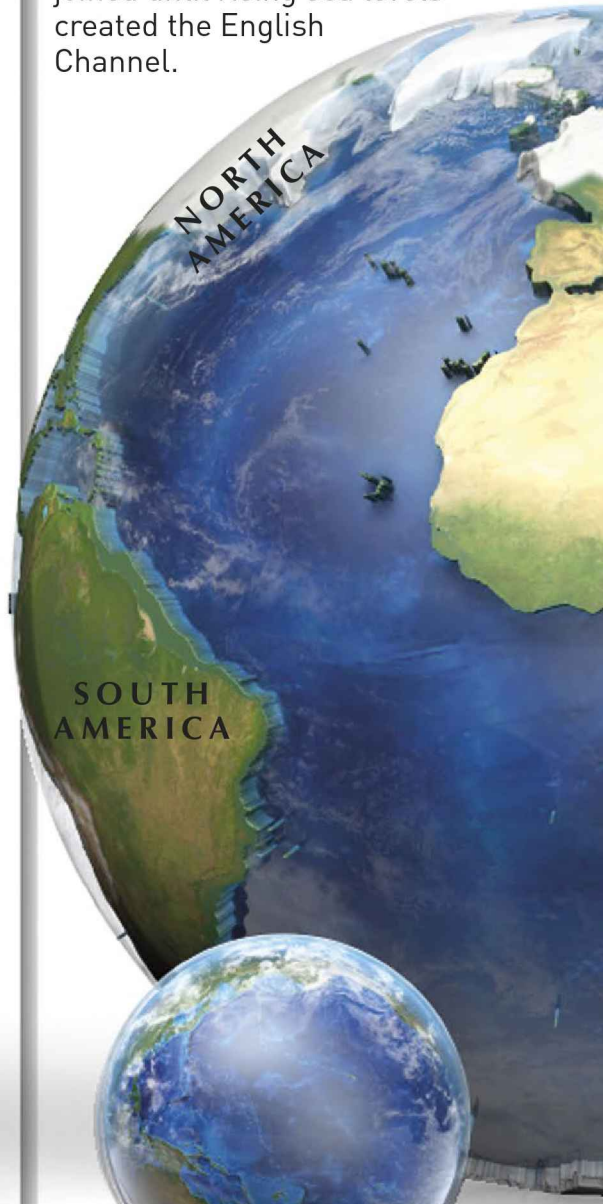


Plants

Grasslands expanded across the continents, and flowering plants and conifers were joined by deciduous trees, such as the beech.

50,000–18,000 years ago

Part of a cycle of ice ages, ocean levels fell and rose as glaciers advanced and retreated. India nudged further into Asia, Australia into Indonesia, and Africa and Arabia into Europe and Asia. France and England were joined until rising sea levels created the English Channel.



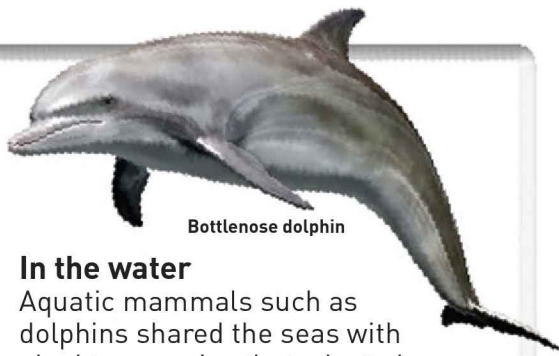
Reverse view

Woolly mammoth



Animals

Giant mammals evolved, such as the woolly mammoth, with its thick fur coat for protection.



Bottlenose dolphin

In the water

Aquatic mammals such as dolphins shared the seas with plankton species that adapted to successive changes in the water temperature.



Present day

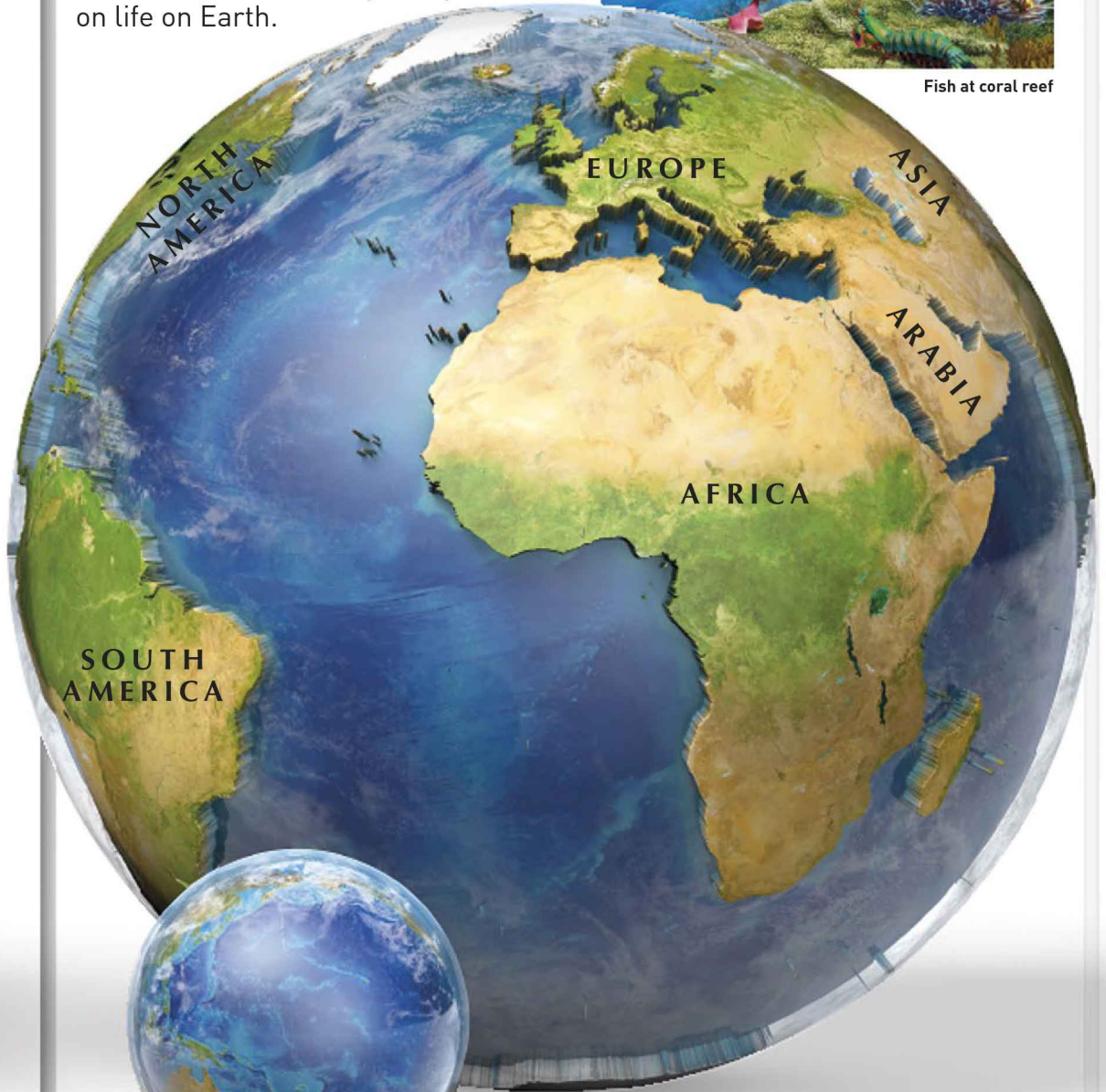
The last ice age ended and giant mammals became extinct around 12,000 years ago. By that time, humans had started to make their mark on the world. Human activity has triggered global warming and has affected natural cycles of glaciation. The consequences of this could have a major impact on life on Earth.

In the water

Coral reefs provide a habitat for up to a quarter of all marine species. Marine life is still diverse, with an estimated 2 million species living in the oceans.



Fish at coral reef



Reverse view

Zebra



Animals

The land today is home to an estimated 6 million species of animal, including the zebra.



Plants

Steppe (grassland too dry for trees to grow) plant types expanded. Much land was tundra – so cold, dry, and windy, that only the hardest plants grew.



Plants

Tropical rainforests are home to about 40,000 known plant species, from tiny mosses to towering mahogany and kapok trees.



NORTH AMERICA



North America from space
North America is a huge continent that dominates the northern half of Earth's western hemisphere. From space, the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains are clearly visible.

North American Free Trade Agreement

Established in 1994, the North American Free Trade Association, also known as NAFTA, is an agreement signed by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Its aim is to increase the flow of trade between the three countries.



ARCTIC OCEAN

Alaska

The United States bought Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million in 1867.

ASIA

ALASKA

Anchorage

Bering Sea

Gulf of Alaska

Queen Charlotte Islands

Vancouver Island

United States of America

The United States is a country made up of 50 states.

FAST FACTS

Total land area:

24,238,000 sq km
(9,358,340 sq miles)

Total population:

576 million

Number of countries:

23

Largest country:

Canada –
9,984,670 sq km
(3,855,103 sq miles)

Smallest country:

St Kitts and Nevis –
261 sq km (101 sq miles)

Largest country population:

United States of America –
321 million

Greenland
(to Denmark)

Nuuk

Ellesmere Island

Baffin Bay

Baffin Island

Beaufort Sea

NUNAVUT

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Hudson Bay

CANADA

YUKON

MANITOBA

ONTARIO

ALBERTA

SASKATCHEWAN

Edmonton

Saskatoon

Winnipeg

MINNESOTA

Calgary

Regina

Bismarck

NORTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA

MONTANA

NEBRASKA

WYOMING

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

KANSAS

DENVER

COLORADO

UTAH

NEVADA

SALT LAKE CITY

ALBUQUERQUE

NEW MEXICO

ARIZONA

PHOENIX

EL PASO

SAN FRANCISCO

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES

SAN DIEGO

Tijuana

CHIHUAHUA

PACIFIC OCEAN

1 Denali

At 6,194 m (20,321 ft), Denali, located in south-central Alaska, is the highest peak in North America. Denali means "tall" or "high" in Kokuyon, the language used by the people who live in the area that surrounds the mountain.



4 Greenland



ASIA

Bering Strait

Brooks Range

Denali
6,194 m /
20,321 ft

Alaska Range

Bering Sea

Aleutian Range

Aleutian Islands

Gulf of Alaska

Beaufort Sea

Mackenzie Bay

Great Bear Lake

Mackenzie

Great Slave Lake

Lake Athabasca

Reindeer Lake

Hudson Bay

Lake Winnipeg

Lake Manitoba

Mount Rainier
4,392 m /
14,410 ft

Western Cordillera

A system of parallel mountain ranges that extends along the continent's western coast.

Cascade Range

Great Salt Lake

Great Basin

Death Valley
-86 m /
-282 ft

Sierra Nevada

San Joaquin Valley

Mojave Desert

Colorado Plateau

Grand Canyon

Colorado

Sonoran Desert

Lower California

PACIFIC OCEAN

Landscape

North America lies between the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, and stretches from the Arctic in the north to just short of the equator in the south. The continent is also home to Greenland, the world's largest island.



FAST FACTS

1 Highest point:
Denali, Alaska, United States of America – 6,194 m (20,321 ft)

2 Longest river:
Mississippi River, United States 5,960 km (3,700 miles)

3 Largest lake:
Lake Superior, United States/ Canada – 83,270 sq km (32,151 sq miles)

4 Largest island:
Greenland – 2,130,800 sq km (822,700 sq miles)



Greenland – a permanent ice sheet covers four-fifths of the island.

Caribbean Islands
These are made up of over 7,000 islands, islets, reefs, and cays (low banks of reef, coral, rock, or sand).

Appalachian Mountains
Formed around 400 million years ago, this is one of the world's oldest mountain ranges.

Great Plains
A vast, flat, fertile area created by retreating glaciers during the last Ice Age.

Isthmus of Panama
At its narrowest, the Isthmus of Panama – an isthmus is a narrow strip of land with sea on either side – is just 50 km (31 miles) wide.

KEY
The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

ELEVATION	
Feet	Metres
above 26,247	above 8,000
22,965	7,000
19,685	6,000
16,404	5,000
13,123	4,000
9,842	3,000
6,560	2,000
3,280	1,000
Sea level 0	0 Sea level

Fascinating facts

Largest lake: **Lake Superior, United States/Canada** – 83,270 sq km (32,151 sq miles)



Deepest lake

Great Slave Lake,
Canada –

614 m (2,014 ft) deep

Longest
tunnels



Railway tunnel

Mount Macdonald
Tunnel, British
Columbia, Canada
– 14.7 km (9.1 miles)



Metro line

Angrignon–Honoré-
Beaugrand (Line 1 Green),
Montreal Metro, Canada –
22.1 km (13.7 miles)

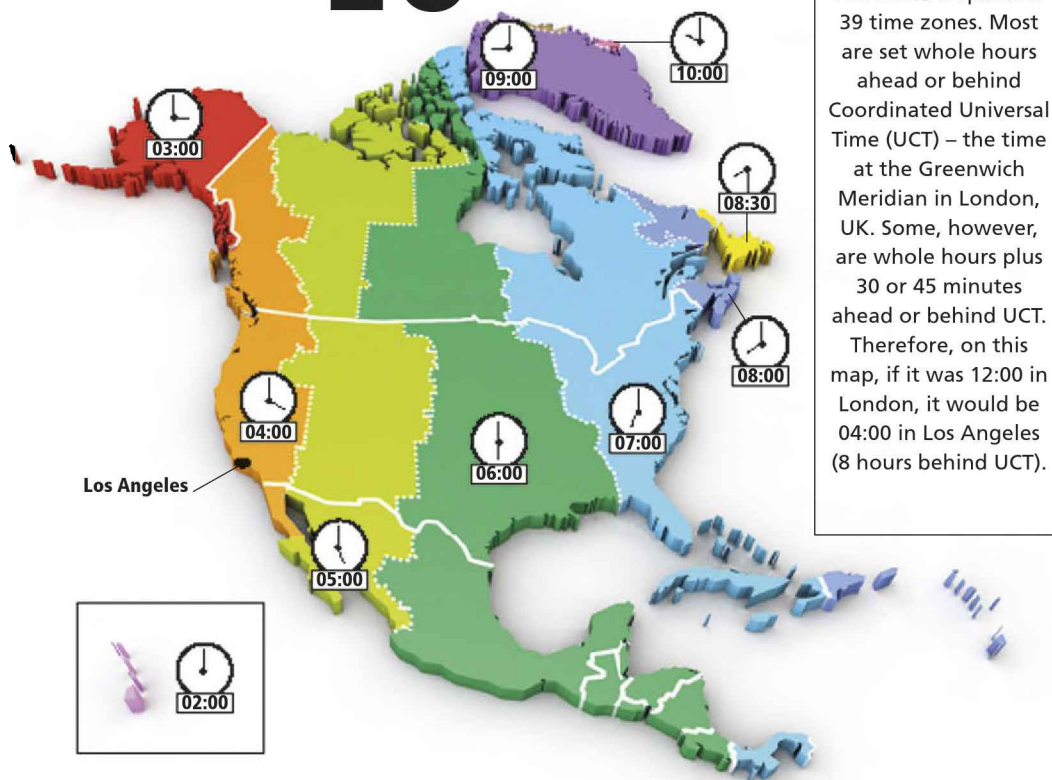


Road tunnel

Ted Williams
Extension, Boston,
United States –
4.2 km (2.6 miles)

Number of
time zones

10



Most active volcano

Kilauea, Hawaii,
United States



Official languages **7**

Amerindian languages ▪ **Creole** ▪
Danish (Greenland) ▪ **Dutch** ▪
English ▪ **French** ▪ Spanish



Busiest airport

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
International Airport, Atlanta, US –
101,489,887 passengers per year

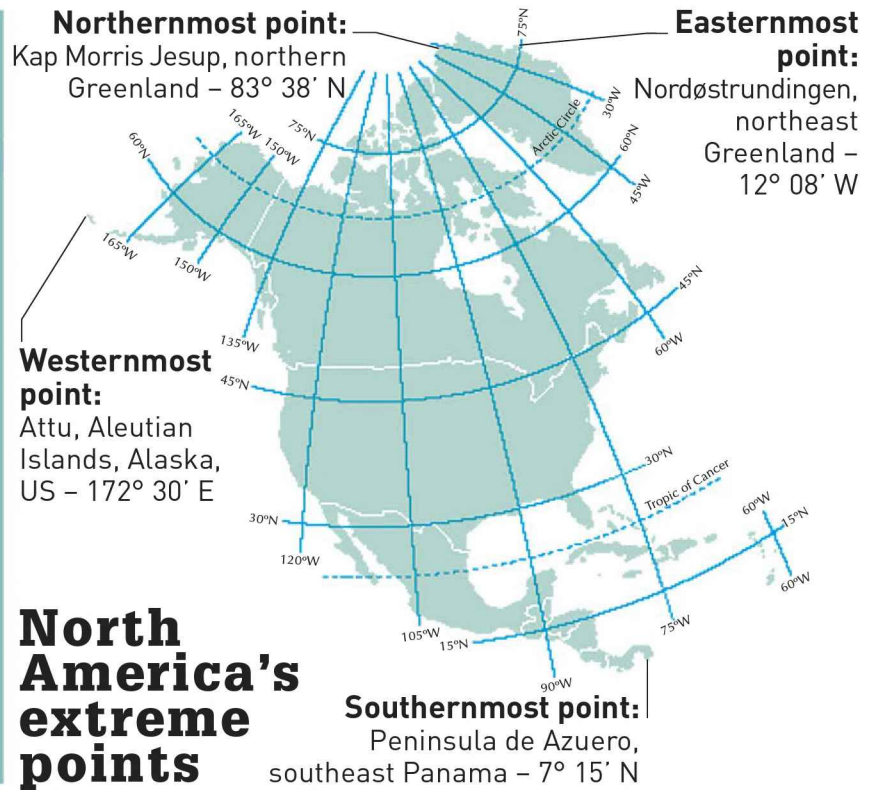
Fastest train

North America's fastest train is the **Acela Express**, in the US, which can reach speeds of up to **240 km/h (150 mph)**



WATERFALLS

● Largest (by volume):
**Niagara Falls,
US/Canada** –
2,406.9 m³ (85,000 ft³)
of water per second
Highest: **Olo'upena
Falls, Molokai,
Hawaii, US** –
900 m (2,953 ft)



Longest coastline

Canada – **202,080 km**
(125,567 miles)

Longest bridge

Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, Louisiana,
USA – **38.442 km (23.89 miles)**



Highest bridge

Royal Gorge Bridge, Colorado,
USA – **291 m (955 ft)**



BIGGEST GLACIER

Bering Glacier,
Alaska, US

Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

New York, US
12.27 million

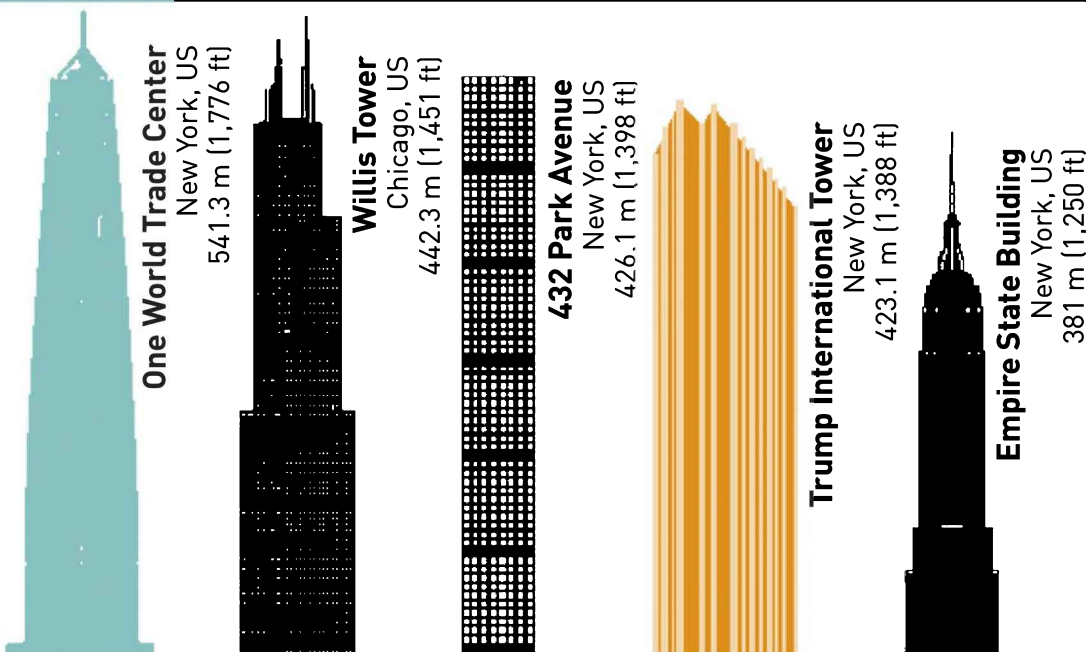
Los Angeles, US
5.2 million

Miami, US
4.52 million

Toronto, Canada
4.18 million

Vancouver, Canada
3.76 million

Tallest buildings



1 Mexico City

Mexico's capital is located in the Valley of Mexico and sits at an altitude of 2,240 m (7,350 ft). Continuously inhabited since 1325, it is the oldest city in North America and also the most populous, with 8.85 million inhabitants.

**Greenland**

The world's largest island has the lowest population density in the world – 0.03 people per sq km (0.08 people per sq mile).

Anchorage

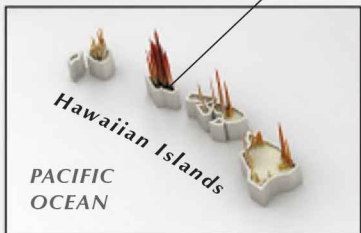
Alaska's most populated city, with 298,695 residents, Anchorage is the 65th largest city in the United States.

Edmonton

The capital of Alberta, Edmonton is the most northern city in North America with a metropolitan population of more than 1 million people.

Honolulu

The westernmost and southernmost city in the United States, Honolulu has a population of 352,769.

**Vancouver**

The most densely populated city in Canada, with 5,249 inhabitants per sq km (13,590 per sq mile).

Population

Much of North America's landmass is sparsely populated, particularly in the frozen north. Population densities are highest along the United States' east and west coasts, around the Great Lakes, in the highlands of Mexico, and in the Caribbean islands, where the amount of available land is limited.

3

Los Angeles

The second largest city in the United States, it has a population of 3.97 million.

7 Havana

Cuba's capital, Havana is the most populous city in the Caribbean region. It has a population of 2.12 million people.



North America's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living within the city's boundary.

- 1 Mexico City, Mexico – 8.85 million
- 2 New York, United States – 8.55 million
- 3 Los Angeles, United States – 3.97 million
- 4 Toronto, Canada – 2.83 million
- 5 Chicago, United States – 2.72 million
- 6 Houston, United States – 2.3 million
- 7 Havana, Cuba – 2.12 million
- 8 Ecatepec de Morelos, Mexico – 1.76 million
- 9 Montreal, Canada – 1.75 million
- 10 Philadelphia, United States – 1.57 million



Skyscrapers dominate the New York borough of Manhattan's skyline.

St John's

The largest city in Newfoundland, St John's has a population of 106,000.

New York

The largest city in the United States, New York has a population of 8.55 million.

Sint Maarten

The Dutch territory of Sint Maarten has the highest population density of any location in North America – 1,101 people per sq km (2,852 per sq mile).

Houston

With a population of 2.3 million, it is the largest city in the southern United States.

Guatemala City

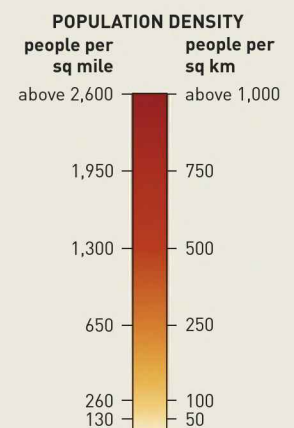
Central America's largest city, with a population of 3.7 million people.

El Salvador

The most densely populated country in Central America, with 290 people per sq km (750 per sq mile).

KEY

The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.



The Grand Canyon



Formed over millions of years by the flow of the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is a steep-sided canyon in the state of Arizona, United States. It is 446 km (277 miles) long, 29 km (18 miles) wide at its widest point, and reaches a depth of 1,857 m (6,093 ft).

Granite Gorge

The most-visited section of the Grand Canyon, it is the starting point for the majority of rafting trips through the canyon along the Colorado River.

Grand Canyon Village



Colorado River

Grand Canyon

Granite

Grand Canyon Lodge

Bright Angel Canyon

Walhalla Plateau

Cape Royal

Granite Gorge

Desert View



South Rim

Approximately 90 per cent of tourists catch their first dramatic glimpse of the Grand Canyon from here.



Painted

Painted Desert

Starting at the eastern edge of the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert is 19,425 sq km (7,500 sq miles). It is named for its multi-coloured layers of rock, which range from grey to purple, and from orange to pink.

Tuckup Canyon

A 160-km (100-mile) long trail route on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Tuckup Canyon



Grand Canyon Village

Occupied since the 1800s, Grand Canyon Village was originally built around the terminus for the Grand Canyon Railway, which brought tourists to the area.



North Rim

Temperatures on the North Rim are usually lower than those found at the South Rim because it is 300 m (1,000 ft) higher.



Kaibab National Forest

A 670,000-hectare (1.6 million-acre) forest that borders both the north and south of the Grand Canyon.

Kanab Plateau

Kaibab Plateau

Reaching an elevation of 2,817 m (9,200 ft), this heavily forested plateau contrasts sharply with the arid lowlands to its south.

K a i b a b P l a t e a u

C o c k s c o m b

Cockscomb

A trail area running to the north of the Grand Canyon, its highest point is Cockscomb Rock at 1,527 m (5,009 ft).

Marble Canyon

Marble Canyon

This marks the beginning of the Grand Canyon. Despite its name, the canyon contains no marble – it gets its name from the colour of its limestone walls, which resemble the colour of marble.



Colorado River

From its source in the Rocky Mountains, the Colorado River flows for 2,330 km (1,450 miles) and passes through Mexico before emptying into the Gulf of California.



D e s e r t

Chichen Itza

The largest and most famous Mayan site, Chichen Itza, Mexico, was a major urban centre between 750 and 1200 CE. The highlight of the site is the El Castillo pyramid, whose four sides are made up of 365 steps (one for each day of the solar year).



Illulissat Icefjord

Located 350 km (220 miles) north of the Arctic Circle, the area's many icebergs have made Illulissat a popular tourist destination.

Illulissat Icefjord,
Greenland

Mount
Shishaldin,
Alaska,
United States

Mount Shishaldin

The highest mountain peak on the Aleutian Islands (2,857 m/9,373 ft), Mount Shishaldin is the most symmetrical cone-shaped volcano on Earth.

Mauna Loa,
Hawaii, United States

Hawaiian Islands

PACIFIC OCEAN

Ninistints,
British Columbia,
Canada

The Bow,
Calgary,
Canada

Mount Rushmore,
South Dakota,
United States

Old Faithful,
Wyoming, United States

Space Needle,
Seattle, United States

Redwood National Park,
California, United States

Golden Gate Bridge

When it opened in 1937, it had the longest main span (1,280 m/4,200 ft) of any suspension bridge in the world.

Hoover Dam,
Nevada-Arizona,
United States

Chaco Canyon,
New Mexico,
United States

Golden Gate
Bridge,
San Francisco,
United States

Hollywood Sign,
Los Angeles,
United States

KEY

○ Landmark location

The **United States** is the world's **second-**most-visited country.

Famous landmarks

From towering volcanoes, giant redwood forests, and thunderous waterfalls, to spectacular skyscrapers, the ruins of ancient civilizations, and the architectural legacies of the region's colonial past, North America's most famous landmarks are a stunning mix of natural wonders and manmade masterpieces.



● Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is the collective name for three waterfalls that straddle the Canada-United States border. The largest, the Horseshoe Falls, has an average drop of 57 m (188 ft).



Tornado Alley

Tornado Alley is a nickname given to an area in the southern United States that experiences a high number of tornadoes. A tornado is a column of air that spins at high speed while maintaining contact with both the ground and the storm clouds above.



Coldest inhabited place

Prospect Creek Camp, in Alaska, is the coldest inhabited place in North America. On 23 January 1971, the thermometer there tumbled to -62.2°C (-80°F).

Lowest

The lowest temperature ever recorded in North America is -63°C (-81.4°F) at Snag, Yukon, in Canada, on 3 February 1947.

Wettest

Henderson Lake, British Columbia, Canada, received an average of 7 m (276 in) of rain and snow when measurements were taken between 1923 to 1935 and 1998 to 2000.

Highest

The highest temperature ever recorded in North America is 56.7°C (134°F) in Death Valley, California, United States, on 10 July 1913.



Climate

The climate in North America ranges from freezing Arctic conditions in the far north to desert in the southwest, and tropical conditions in Florida, Central America, and the Caribbean. Central and southern regions are prone to severe storms, including hurricanes and tornadoes.

Driest
Batagues in Baja California, Mexico, is the driest place in North America. It receives just 30.5 mm (1.2 in) of rain per year.

Polar nights

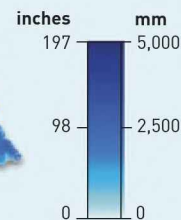
In Greenland, the sun does not rise between early December and mid-January and the days are dark.

Windiest

Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, United States, is the windiest location in North America. On 12 April 1934, a gust of 372 km/h (231 mph) was recorded there.

Annual precipitation

North America receives moderate amounts of precipitation (snow and rain) compared to other continents. The wettest areas are the west coast of Canada, the extreme northwest of the United States, and parts of Central America and the Caribbean. The central part of Greenland is covered by a permanent ice cap.



On average over **1,000 tornadoes** are recorded in the United States **every year**.

Hurricanes

Hurricanes form in the Atlantic Basin and are carried westwards by trade winds from the coast of Africa.

Heaviest rainfall

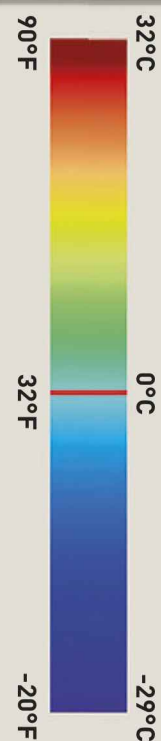
The most rain to fall in 24 hours in North America was 1,633.98 mm (64.3 in), in Isla Mujeres, Mexico, on 21-22 October 2005.

KEY

The scale on the right represents average annual temperatures, with dark red being the hottest and dark blue being the coldest.

AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE

- Jan July
- Town/city
- Tornado zones
- Hurricane
- Warm winds
- Cold winds
- Direction of hurricanes



BIOMES

North America has a number of different biomes – large geographical areas of distinctive plant and animal groups – from deciduous forests in the south to tundra in the far north.

- Ice
- Tundra
- Boreal forest/Taiga
- Temperate coniferous forest
- Temperate broadleaf forest
- Temperate grassland
- Mediterranean
- Tropical coniferous forest
- Tropical broadleaf forest
- Tropical dry broadleaf forest
- Tropical, sub-tropical grassland
- Desert
- Flooded grassland
- Mangrove

Arctic ground squirrel

This squirrel doubles its weight during summer to prepare for a seven-month hibernation.

Steller sea lion

The largest sea lion species. Male bulls can be 1,000 kg (2,205 lb).

Dall sheep

This sheep has thick, curled horns that stop growing in the winter.

Grey wolf

Wolf pairs can track prey for up to 80 km (50 miles).

Striped skunk

This mammal's foul-smelling oil can be smelt up to 1.6 km (1 mile) away.

Golden eagle

North America's largest bird of prey can reach speeds of 320 km/h (200 mph) in a vertical dive.

Bighorn sheep

The horns of a male can weigh more than its whole skeleton.

Walrus

This mammal uses its tusks to haul its enormous 1,500 kg (3,000 lb) body out of the water.

Musk ox

Gets its name from the strong odour males emit during the rutting season.

Ringed seal

This seal can hold its breath underwater for 45 minutes.

Snowy owl

An unusual owl because it hunts by day.

American bison

North America's largest land mammal, it can weigh up to 1,000 kg (2,205 lb).

Antelope

The fastest land animal in North America, the antelope can reach speeds of 88.5 km/h (55 mph).

Elk

Male elk clash antlers in battle for mating rights.

American black bear

Short, non-retractable claws make it an excellent tree-climber.

Coyote

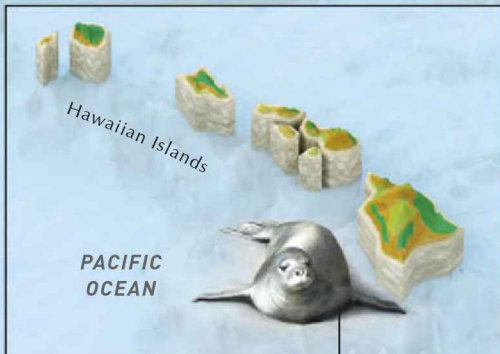
A nocturnal canine that will eat whatever it finds.

Hawaiian monk seal

The only species of seal native to Hawaii. It is highly endangered.

Great white shark

A streamlined swimmer with powerful jaws that contain seven rows of knifelike teeth.



Wildlife

A diverse array of animals roams North America's lands and waters. The contrasting biomes – from freezing tundra in the north to tropical rainforest in the south – provide a remarkable range of habitats for countless species to survive and thrive.

Grey seal

Two fur layers and blubber help this seal keep warm in freezing water.



Star-nosed mole

Nose tentacles help this mole identify food.

Raccoon

Dextrous front paws help this mammal snatch fish from rivers and pick snacks from bins.

Beaver

Powerful jaws help this rodent fell trees and build dams in deep water.

Rattlesnake

Highly venomous, this snake grows new "rattle" segments when it sheds its skin.

Prairie dog

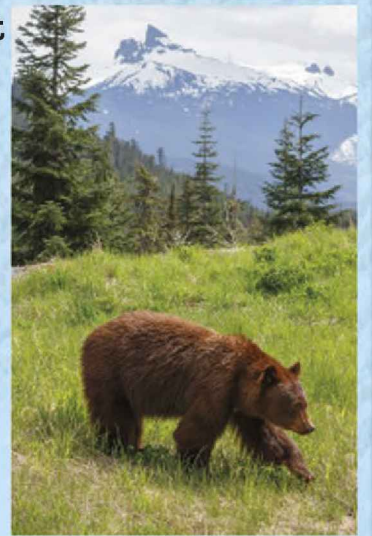
A rodent that lives in underground towns on grasslands.

River otter

Webbed feet and sleek body make this playful mammal an excellent swimmer.

● Oldest and largest

Situated above a dormant (inactive) volcano, and boasting more than half of the world's great geysers, Yellowstone, in Wyoming, United States, became the world's first national park in 1872. This has helped preserve the landscape from human exploitation, and protect its animal herds from poachers.



Lemon shark

A stocky shark that lives in groups in tropical coastal waters.

American alligator

This extremely territorial and powerful predator can be 4 m (13 ft) long.

Magnificent frigatebird

An agile flier with long wings and a forked tail.

Caribbean reef shark

This shark lives on reefs, and can dive to 380 m (1,250 ft).

Olive Ridley sea turtle

A solitary, open-ocean dweller; females return to land to lay eggs.

American crocodile

The largest crocodile species, it lives in brackish (slightly salty) water.

Canada

Despite its vast size (only the Russian Federation is larger), almost 90 per cent of Canada is uninhabitable. The cold temperatures in the country's frozen north are too extreme for humans to live there.

**Hawaii**

With 953,000 people, O'ahu is the most populous of Hawaii's main islands.

**California**

The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area is the most densely populated region in the United States.

By night

This image of North America at night provides a fascinating insight into where people live. The major urban areas are found in the eastern half of the United States, California, and central Mexico, but much of the northern half of the continent is uninhabited.

Greenland

This vast island has only 13 towns with a population of more than 1,000 people. The largest is Nuuk, which has a population of 16,500.

Canada

An estimated 90 per cent of Canada's population live within 160 km (100 miles) of the US border.

Great Lakes

Towns and cities frame the shores of the Great Lakes, which are clearly visible in this image.

District of Columbia

Over 600,000 people live in an area of just 177 sq km (68 sq miles).

Mexico

Over half the country's 123.2 million population live in a small band of land in the centre of the country.

Caribbean islands

Although some of North America's most densely populated territories can be found in the Caribbean region, some of the islands are also home to ever-growing rural populations.



Cayman Islands – Along with Anguilla, Bermuda, and Sint Maarten, this is one of four North American territories with an entirely urban population.



Haiti – A consequence of the devastating 2010 earthquake, the number of people living in towns increased by 3.78 per cent between 2010 and 2015.



Montserrat – Only 9 per cent of this volcanic island's population live in an urban environment.



Trinidad and Tobago – Fewer people live in towns here than anywhere else in North America.

KEY

Illuminated areas on the map reflect urban, built-up areas and roads, in contrast to rural regions.

 Rural area

 Urban area

Costa Rica

Has an urban population of 76.8 per cent – the highest in Central America.



SOUTH AMERICA



Mountains and forests

The Andes mountain range and the mighty Amazon rainforest dominate South America, which runs from the Caribbean Sea in the north to the Tierra del Fuego in the south.

ATLANTIC OCEAN



Countries and borders

For centuries, most of South America was under Spanish or Portuguese rule. Although the majority of countries became independent in the early 19th century, the languages and cultures of their past rulers have shaped the lives of people living there today.





FAST FACTS

Total land area:

17,840,000 sq km
(6,890,000 sq miles)

Total population:

410 million

Number of countries: 12

Largest country:

Brazil – 8,515,770 sq km
(3,287,957 sq miles)

Smallest country:

Suriname – 163,820 sq km
(63,251 sq miles)

Largest country population:

Brazil – 204.3 million



The Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro is home to the world's biggest carnival.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Falkland Islands

The islands are a self-governing British colony. In 1982, Argentina invaded, leading to a brief, but bloody, war.





The Orinoco

This river flows in a vast arc through Venezuela, passing through the flat Llanos, where it creates vast floodplains during the rainy season.

Guiana Highlands

The tablelike mountains of the Guiana Highlands are surrounded by cliffs that rise up to 400 m (1,300 ft).

ATLANTIC

Gulf of
Darien

Gulf of
Panama

The Colombian Andes

The Andes separate into three ranges in Colombia. Two of the country's great rivers, the Río Magdalena and the Río Cauca, have their sources here.

Galápagos
Islands

Galápagos Islands

This isolated group of volcanic islands is home to a number of unique animal species.

Gulf of
Guayaquil

Punta
Negra

The Andes

Spanning 7,000 km (4,300 miles) along the western side of South America, the Andes is the longest mountain range on Earth.

The Altiplano

The second highest plain in the world, the Altiplano, in Bolivia, has an average altitude of 3,750 m (12,303 ft).

PACIFIC OCEAN

Landscape

South America boasts an extraordinary range of landscapes, from the tropical forests on the northern coast to the icy fjords of Tierra del Fuego. The Andes mountains extend along the west coast, while the Amazon Basin dominates the heart of the continent. To the south lie the grasslands of the Pampas.



3 Lake Titicaca

South America's largest lake, Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable body of water in the world, with an elevation of 3,800 m (12,500 ft). It is home to the Uros people, who live on floating islands made from reeds. One island even houses a meeting hall and a school.

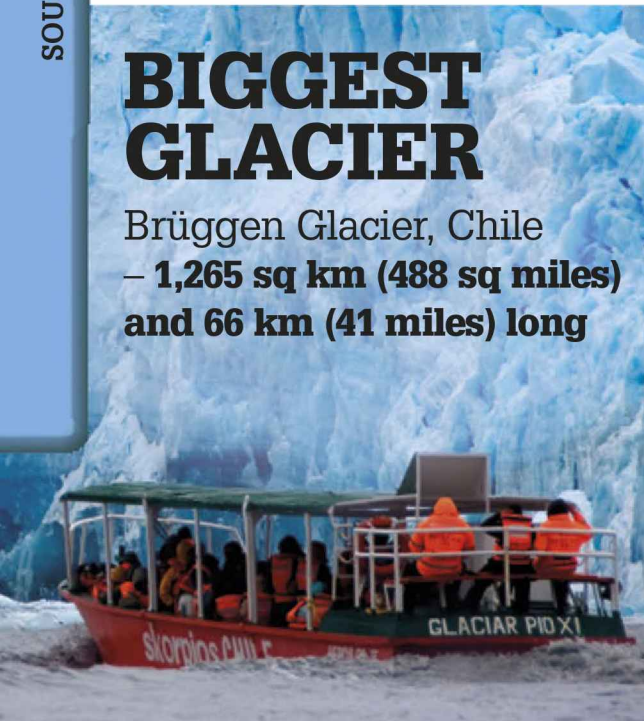


Aconcagua, in Argentina, is the highest peak in South America.

Fascinating facts

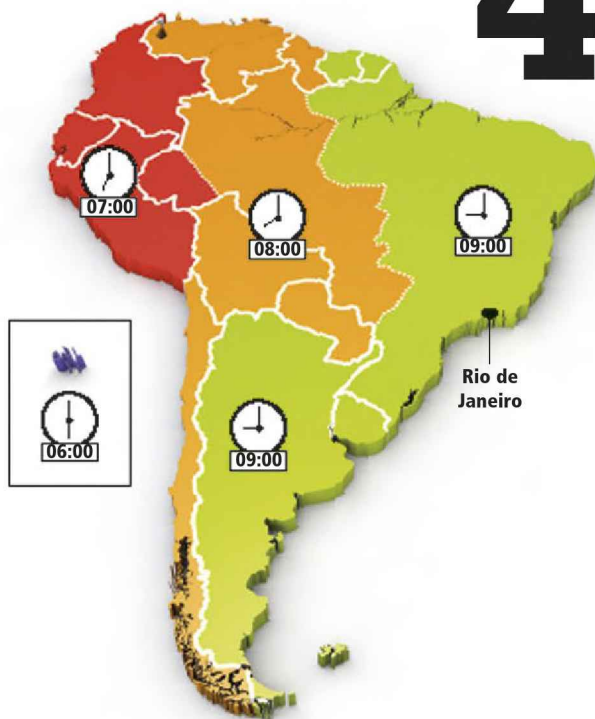
BIGGEST GLACIER

Brüggen Glacier, Chile
– 1,265 sq km (488 sq miles)
and 66 km (41 miles) long



Number of
time zones

4



The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 09:00 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (3 hours behind UCT).

COUNTRY WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS



Brazil (10)

French Guiana,
Suriname, Guyana,
Venezuela, Colombia,
Peru, Bolivia, **Paraguay**,
Argentina, **Uruguay**

Longest tunnels



Railway tunnel

Cuajone–El Sargento
tunnel, Peru –
14.72 km (9.1 miles)



Road tunnel

Fernando Gomez
Martinez tunnel,
Colombia – 4.6 km
(2.86 miles)

Number of official languages

5

Portuguese ▪ Spanish ▪
English ▪ Dutch ▪ French

Longest coastline



Brazil – 7,491 km
(4,655 miles)

Most active volcano

Villarrica, Chile



Busiest airport

Biggest airport São Paulo-Guarulhos
Airport, Brazil – passengers in 2015:
35.96 million

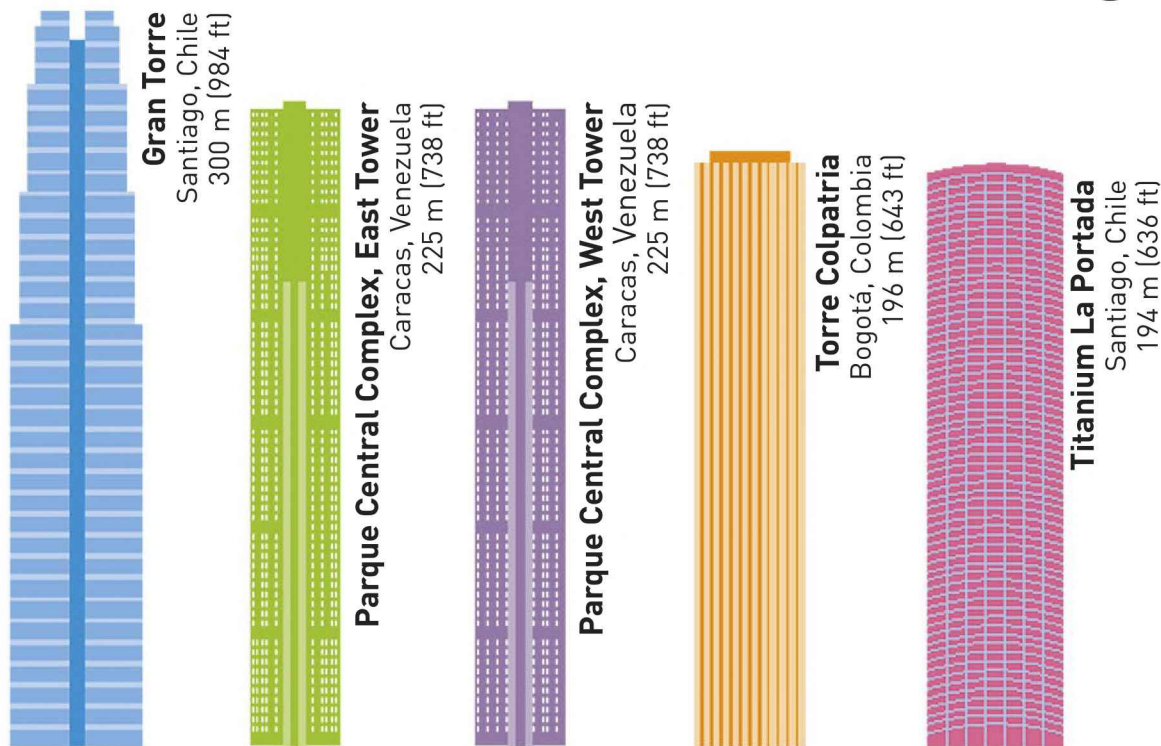
Highest:

Angel Falls, Venezuela
– 979 m (3,212 ft)



Largest (by volume):
Iguazú Falls, Brazil –
Argentina – 1,756 m³
(62,012 ft³) of water per second

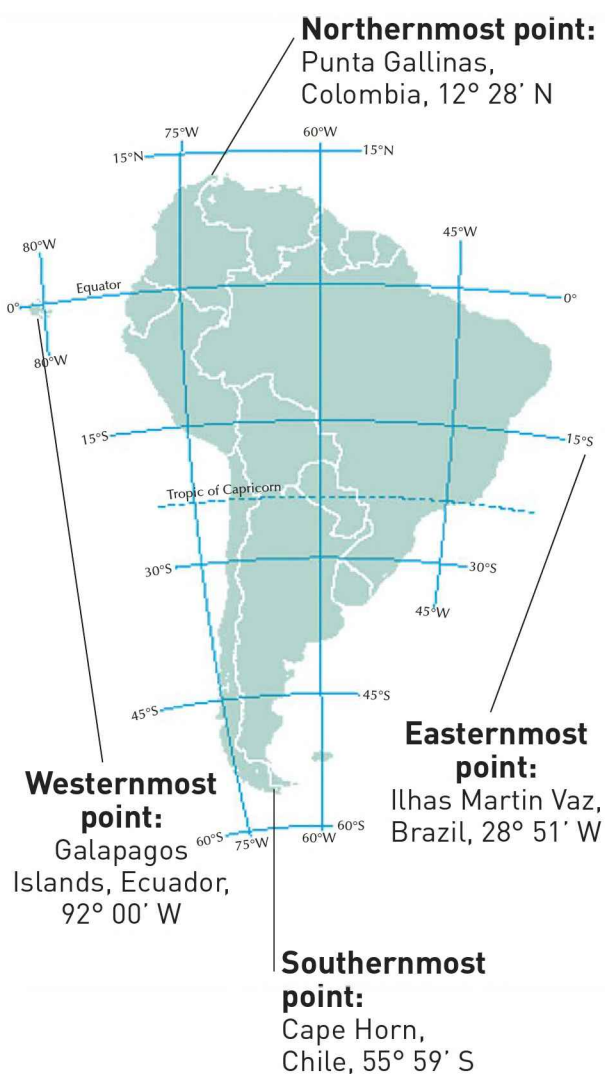
Tallest buildings



Most visited cities (Visitors per year)



South America's extreme points



Longest bridge

Rio Niterói Bridge,
Guanabara Bay,
Brazil – **13.29 km**
(8.25 miles)



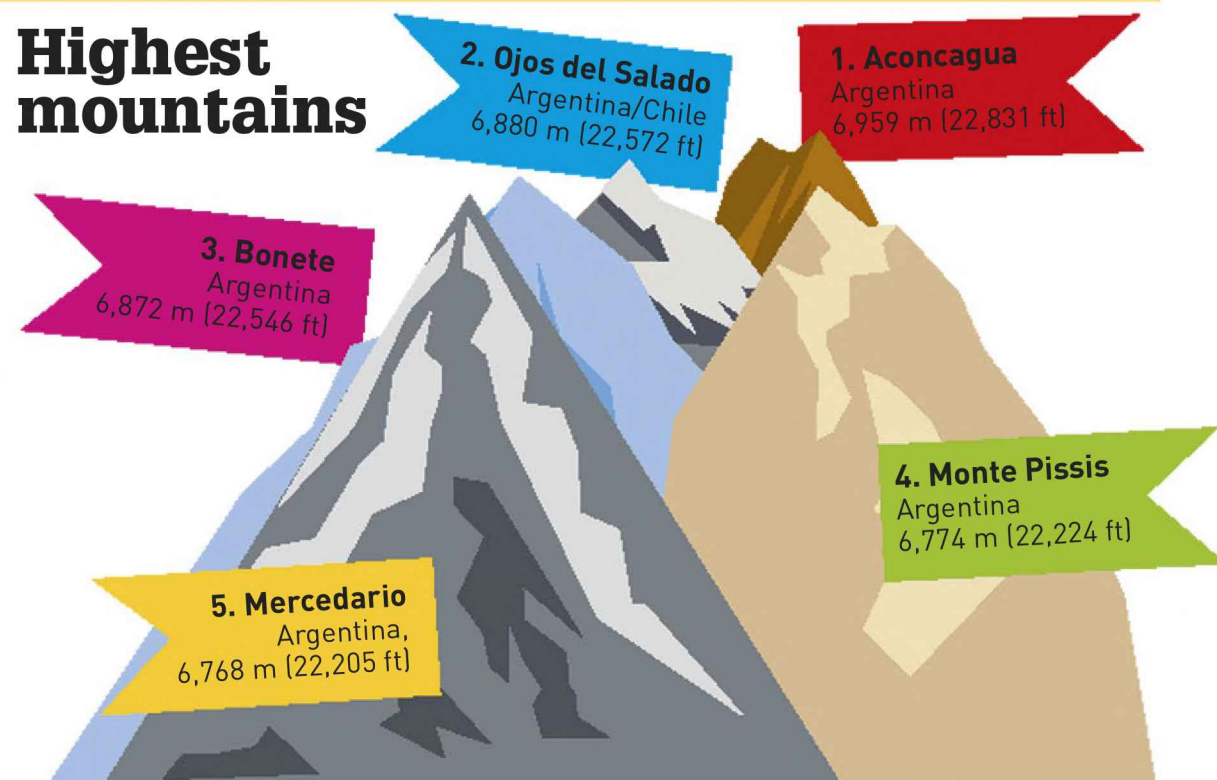
Lowest point

Laguna del Carbón,
Santa Cruz, Argentina –
-104.9 m (-344 ft)

This is the seventh-lowest point
on Earth's surface.

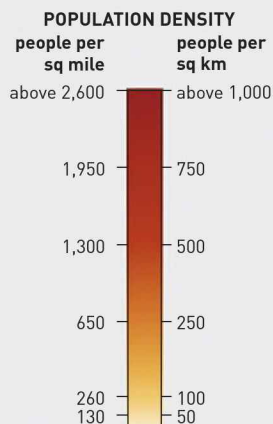
Landlocked countries 2 – Bolivia and Paraguay

Highest mountains



KEY

The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.

**Colombia**

South America's second-most densely populated country is Colombia, with 41 people per sq km (106 people per sq mile).

Paramaribo

240,000 people live in the capital of Suriname, about half the country's population.

French Guiana

This French overseas department is home to 244,118 people.

The Amazon

The river provides the only means of transport here, and many towns and villages are found on its riverbanks.

Ecuador

15.9 million people live in Ecuador. It is the most densely populated country in South America, with 56 people per sq km (145 people per sq mile).

Iquitos

More than 400,000 people live in the largest city on the Peruvian section of the Amazon river. Iquitos can only be reached by boat or plane.

Lima

8.9 million people live in Lima, the capital of Peru. Its population has almost doubled since 1980.

São Paulo

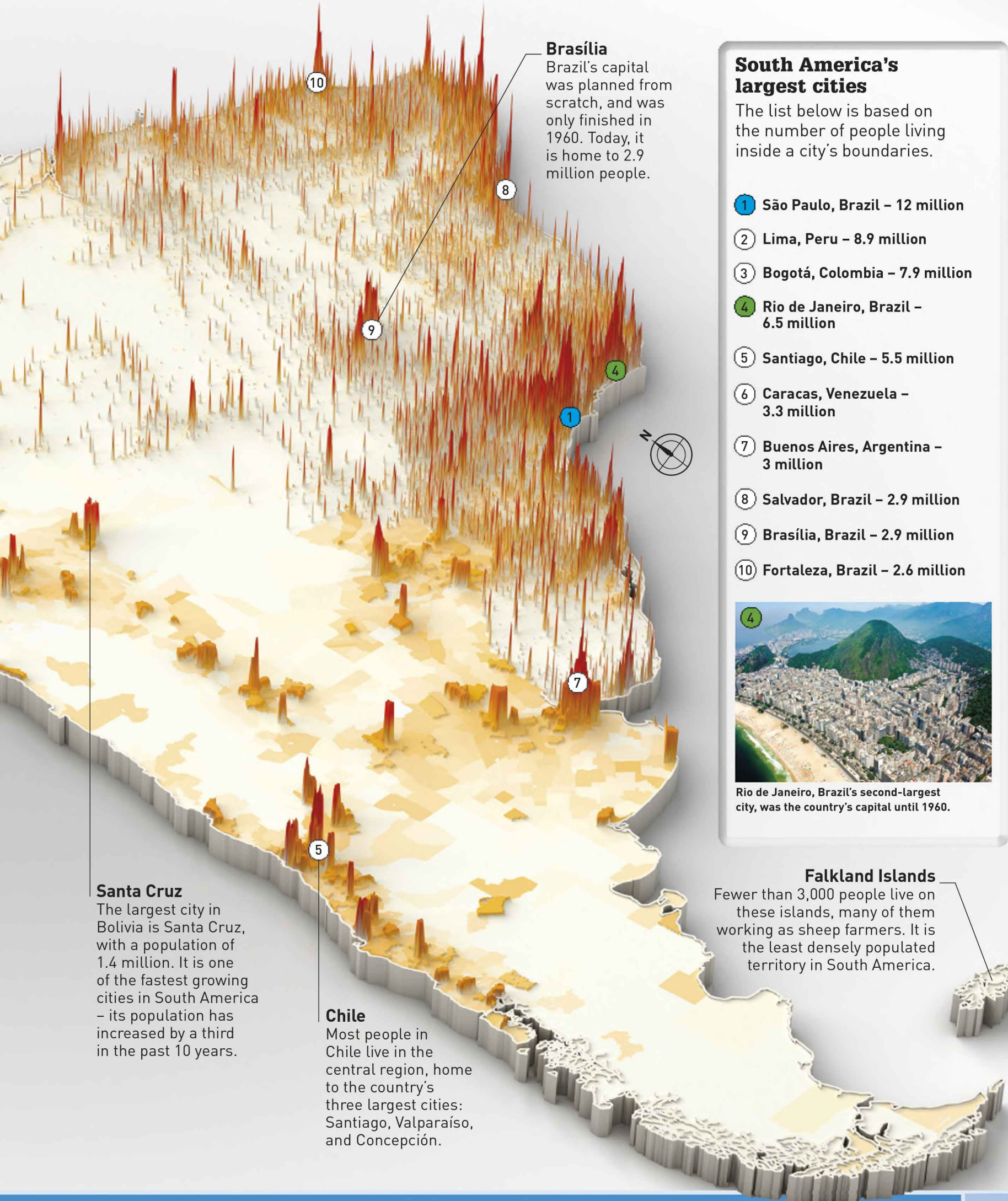
The discovery of gold near to São Paulo in the 1690s attracted settlers from around the world. Today, South America's largest city is a bustling business centre, with a population of 12 million.



Tower blocks and modern architecture dominate the centre of São Paulo.

Population

South America is highly urbanized, with the majority of its population living in cities such as Lima and Bogotá in the north west, or São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro on the east coast of Brazil. By contrast, Amazonia, the Altiplano plateau, and Patagonia remain sparsely populated.





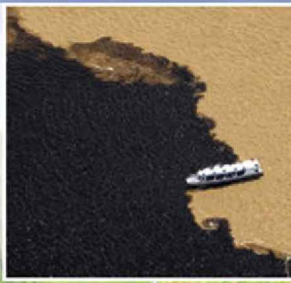
The Trans-Amazonian Highway

Running from João Pessoa in the east to the Amazonian city of Lábrea, the Trans-Amazonian Highway is about 4,000 km (2,485 miles) long.



Meeting of waters

The Rio Negro's dark water meets the muddy Amazon near Manaus in Brazil. Their waters do not immediately mix, creating a two-tone river.



Los Llanos

Rains flood this vast grassland once a year, turning it into a huge temporary marshland. It is home to many species of water birds, and the rare Orinoco crocodile.

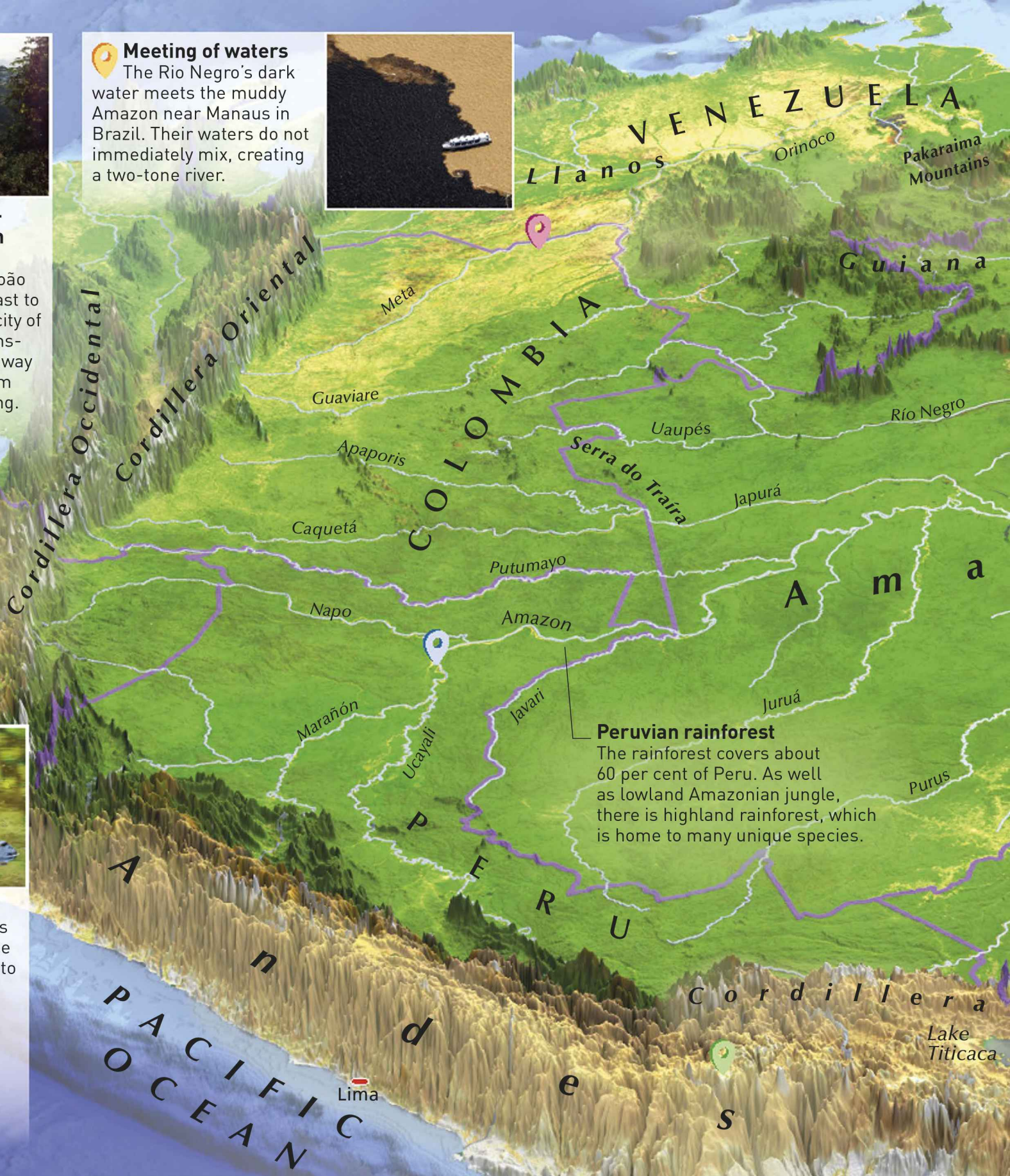
Belén

Buildings are attached to stilts in the Peruvian village of Belén. The houses float on the river itself, rising and falling with its waters.



Nevado Mismi

The source of the Amazon river lies at the foot of a cliff face on Nevado Mismi, a mountain in the Peruvian Andes. It is marked by a cross.



Kaieteur Falls
Waterfalls are rare in the Amazon Basin, but Kaieteur Falls, in Guyana, is 226 m (741 ft) high – four times higher than Niagara Falls.



Ilha de Marajó
The largest river island in the world, Marajó is about the size of Switzerland.

The Amazon River
The Nile might be longer, but the Amazon carries more water than any other river on Earth – approximately 20 per cent of all the water that reaches the sea from the world's rivers.



Pororoca
The Amazon river's tidal bore, the Pororoca, is a large wave that occurs when there's a new or full moon. It can reach up to 8 m (26 ft) high, and is popular with surfers.

Planalto de Mato Grosso

Amazon Basin

Home to the world's largest rainforest, the Amazon Basin covers an area almost as large as Australia. It is Earth's most dynamic ecosystem; 3 million different types of plant and animal live in its lush jungle, and new species are still being discovered there every year.





Famous landmarks

South America is home to an incredible wealth of cultural sites, ranging from the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu to the modern architecture of Brasília. It also boasts awe-inspiring natural wonders, such as Venezuela's Angel Falls and the glaciers of Chile and Argentina.

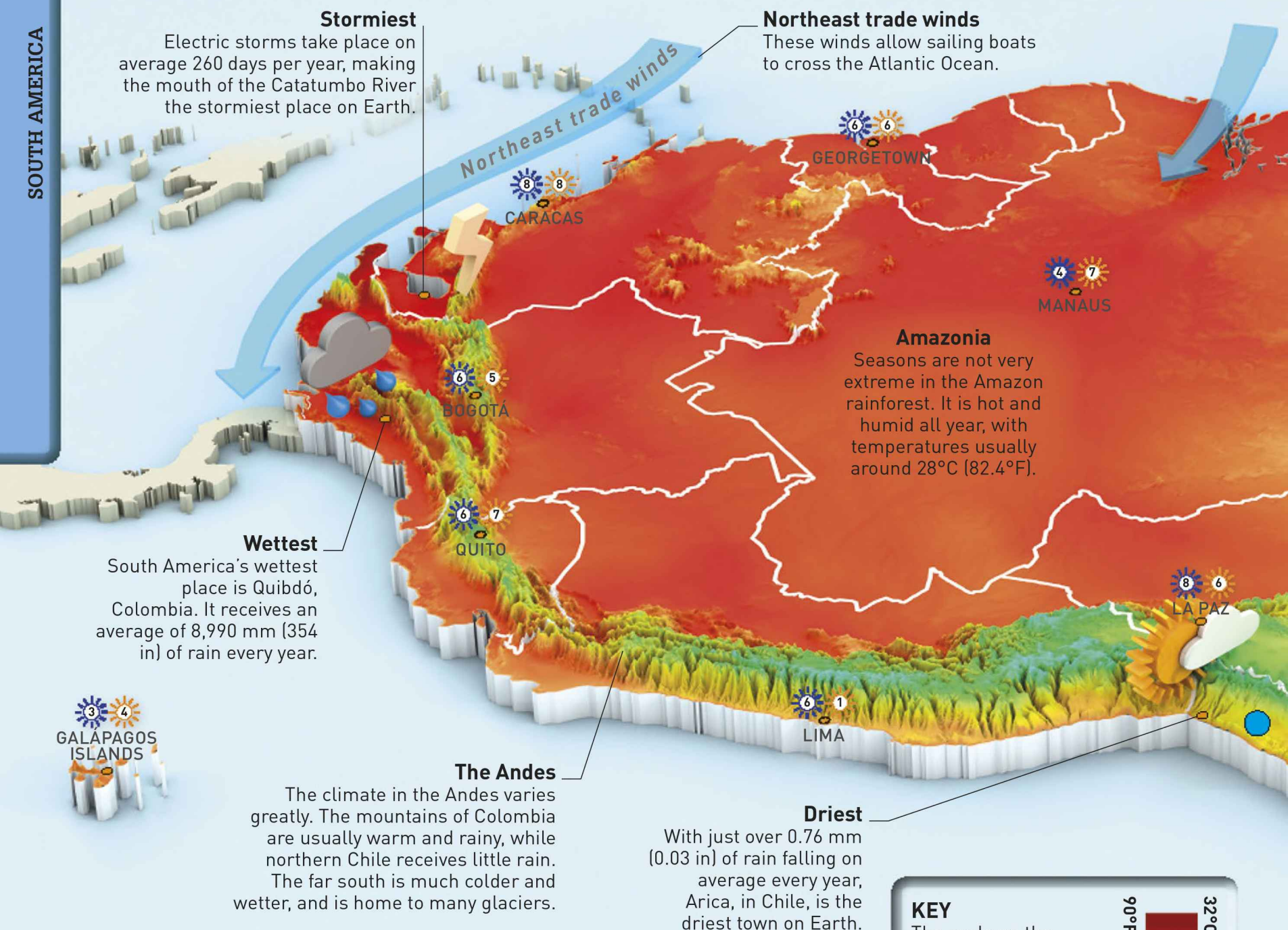
Christ the Redeemer

Looking down from the summit of Mount Corcovado onto Rio de Janeiro, Christ the Redeemer is one of the continent's best-loved landmarks. Finished in 1931, the 39-m (128-ft) tall statue took five years to build.



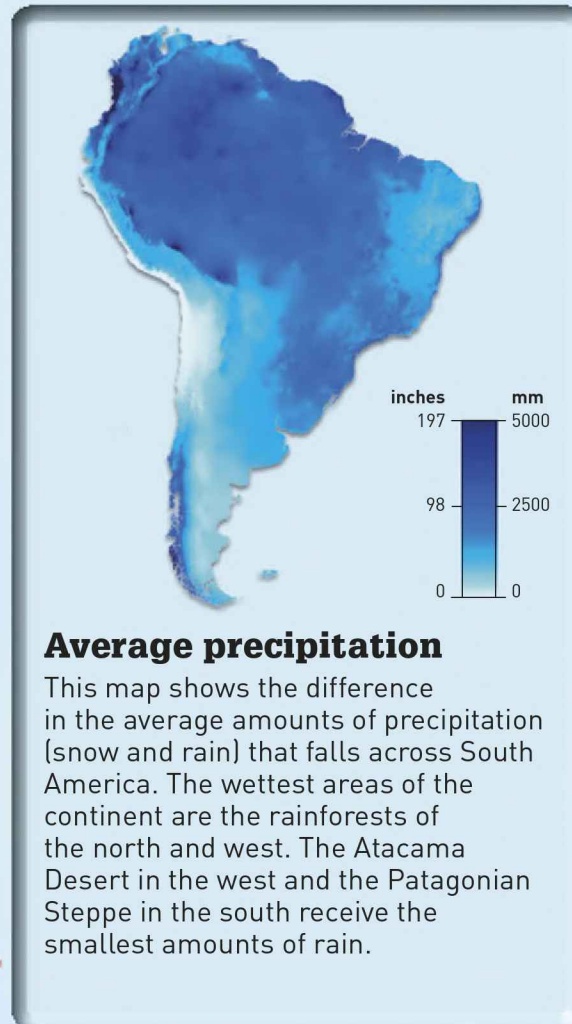
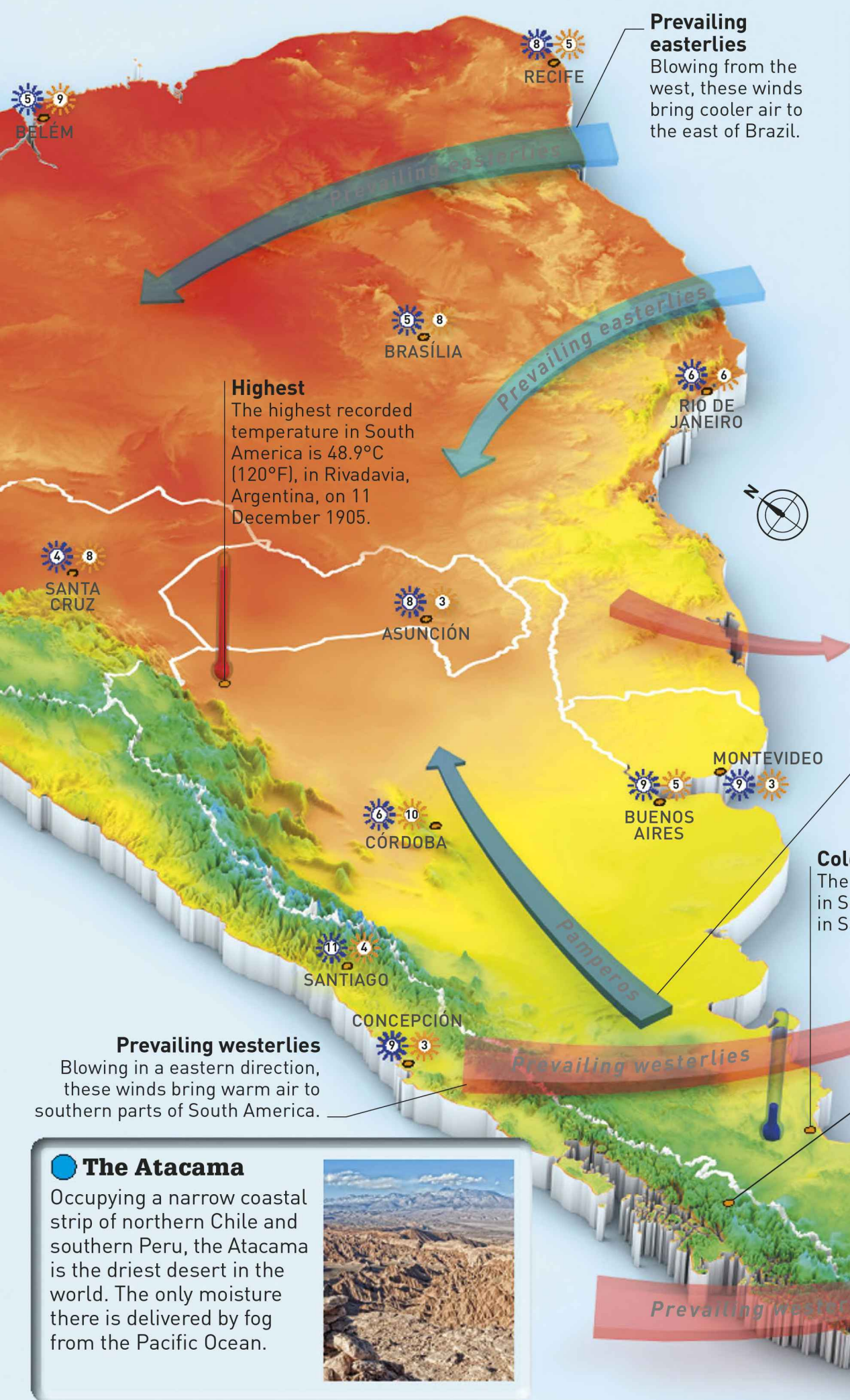
The giant statue of Jesus Christ towers over Brazil's second city, Rio de Janeiro.



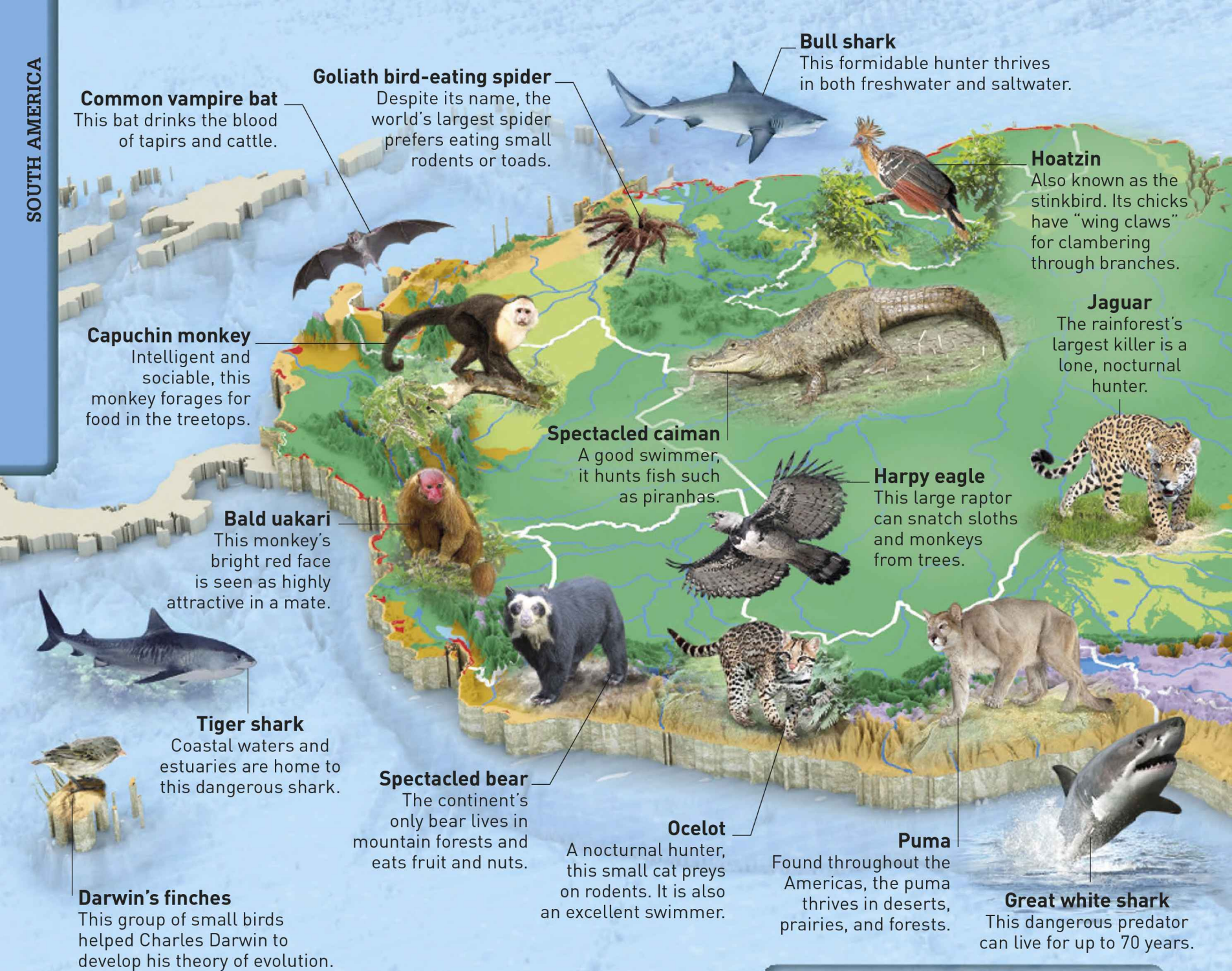


Climate

South America's climate ranges from the tropical heat of the Caribbean coastline in the north to the icy winters and damp summers of Tierra del Fuego in the far south. The Andes mountains and the Amazon rainforest create their own climate systems that affect the rest of the continent.



HAVE NEVER RECORDED A SINGLE DROP OF RAIN.



Wildlife

The grasslands, mountains, and rainforests of South America contain an incredible variety of plant and animal species. This vast range of habitats is home to many species of birds, mammals, and amphibians that are found nowhere else on Earth.

BIOMES

Tropical broadleaf forest is widespread in the north, before it gives way to temperate grasslands and temperate broadleaf forest in the south.

- Ice
- Temperate broadleaf forest
- Temperate grassland
- Mediterranean
- Tropical broadleaf forest
- Tropical dry broadleaf forest
- Mountain
- Desert
- Flooded grassland
- Mangrove

Amazonian river dolphin

Its long snout is used to explore the river bed and get between tree roots.

Toucan

This bird rests its beak on its back while sleeping.

Capybara

Riverbanks and wetland areas are home to this giant rodent.

Poison-dart frog

Has a brightly coloured skin to warn predators that it is poisonous.

Peccary

These pig-like creatures form groups to fend off enemies.

Red-bellied piranha

A shoal of these fish can strip its prey to bare bones in minutes.

Guanaco

The wild ancestor of the llama is adapted to high-altitude life.

Armadillo

The only mammal to have body armour, the armadillo rolls itself into a ball when threatened.

Yellow anaconda

Rarely seen out of water, this snake can grow up to 4.4 m (14.4 ft) in length.

Andean condor

With a wingspan of more than 3 m (10 ft), this bird can glide for vast distances.

Patagonian mara

This rodent rears its young in communal burrows on the grassland.

Southern right whale

Following years of exploitation by whalers, numbers are steadily increasing.

Magellanic penguin

Only 65 cm (26 in) tall, this penguin hunts small fish.

Amazonian wildlife

The Amazon rainforest is home to an incredible range of wildlife. Around 130 species of monkey, 400 species of frog, 500 species of reptile, and at least 1,500 different species of bird live in the world's largest rainforest.



The brightly coloured macaw is the largest of all the parrots. It eats a varied diet of fruit, nuts, and seeds.

Golden lion tamarin

This elegant monkey has a beautiful mane and lives in large family groups.

Giant anteater

Huge front claws and a long snout help the anteater to raid termite nests.

Humpback whale

These ocean giants sing in order to attract a mate.

Geoffroy's cat

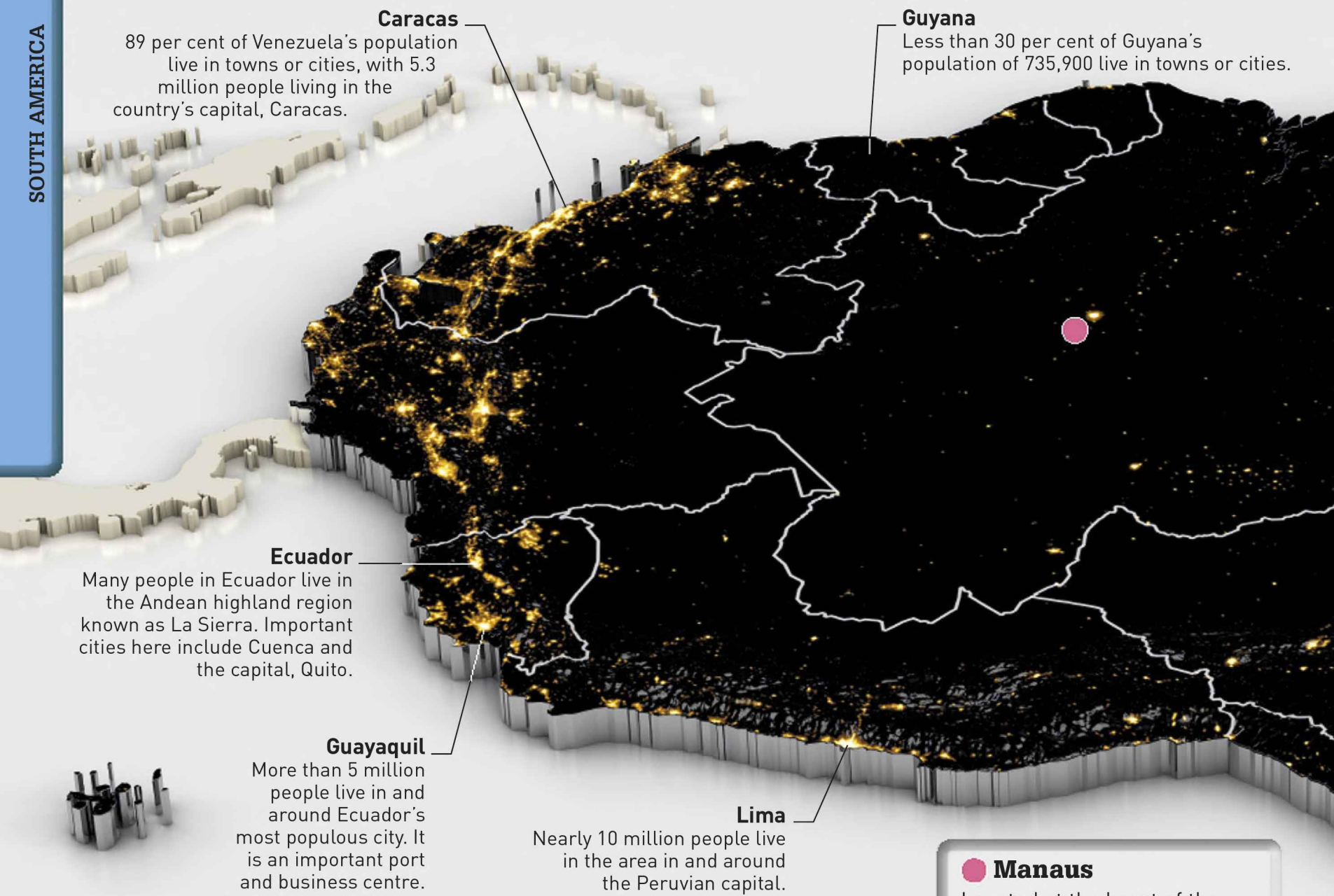
This tiny feline is an excellent climber and preys on birds.

Darwin's rhea

When threatened, this flightless bird flees in a zigzag pattern.

Southern sea lion

Squid and octopus form much of this agile hunter's diet.



Almost **one half** of South America's population lives **in Brazil**.

By night

The brightly lit urban areas of Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela dominate the northwest of the continent. The cities of southeast Brazil, meanwhile, contrast sharply with the dark expanses of Amazonia, in which only occasional dots of light mark the rainforest's few settlements.



The opera house in Manaus is one of the grandest buildings in Amazonia.





AFRICA



Africa from space

The Equator splits Africa between the northern and southern hemispheres. It is bordered by the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

**KEY**

- Capital city
- Major city

Countries and borders

Africa's different kingdoms were brutally split up between European nations in the 19th century. After World War Two, struggle for independence, as well as civil wars, created new nations, re-drawn borders, and disputed territories.

FAST FACTS**Total land area:**

30,335,000 sq km
(11,712,409 sq miles)

Total population:

1.1 billion

Number of countries: 54**Largest country:**

Algeria – 2,381,741 sq km
(919,595 sq miles)

Smallest country:

Seychelles –
455 sq km (176 sq miles)

Largest country population:

Nigeria – 186 million



Egypt

The northeastern corner of Egypt, Sinai, is geographically part of Asia. It is split from the rest of Egypt by the Red Sea and the manmade Suez Canal.

Independence!

With a few early or late exceptions, most African nations managed to gain their independence from various European countries between 1951 and 1975.



Black Star Gate, Accra, honours Ghana's independence (1957).

Lake Victoria

Three countries have borders that pass through Africa's biggest lake: Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

SEYCHELLES

COMOROS

MORONI
Mayotte (to France)
Mahajanga

ANTANANARIVO
Fianarantsoa

INDIAN OCEAN

Smallest country

Spread across 115 islands and atolls (islands formed of coral), the Seychelles is Africa's smallest nation. Independent since 1976, it has a population of 93,180.



Namibia

After years of conflict, Namibia gained independence from South Africa in 1990.

South Africa

South Africa is the only country in the world that borders both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

KEY

The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

ELEVATION

Feet	Metres
above 26,247	above 8,000
22,965	7,000
19,685	6,000
16,404	5,000
13,123	4,000
9,842	3,000
6,560	2,000
3,280	1,000
Sea level 0	0 Sea level



River Niger
From its source in the Guinea Highlands, the Niger flows north, into the desert, and then back south, before flowing into the Gulf of Guinea.

Low-lying coasts
Mangroves, swamps, and sandy beaches line much of West Africa's coast.

Sahel
The dry grasslands of the Sahel are slowly turning into desert due to drought and human activity.

Landscape

Africa has many extreme landscapes. Deserts spread across the north and south, while rainforests dominate the continent's tropical central and western parts. The land rises towards the east, culminating in the Ethiopian Highlands and the Great Rift Valley region, home to Africa's largest lakes and mountains.

**FAST FACTS**

1 Highest point:
Kilimanjaro – 5,895 m
(19,341 ft)

2 Longest river:
Nile – 6,695 km
(4,160 miles)

3 Largest lake:
Lake Victoria –
69,484 sq km
(26,828 sq miles)

4 Largest island:
Madagascar –
594,000 sq km
(229,345 sq miles)



Ethiopian Highlands
This high plateau contains peaks of over 4,500 m (14,764 ft) and is home to Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile.

Sahara Desert
The world's largest hot desert, the Sahara spreads over 9,200,000 sq km (3,600,000 sq miles). It features huge dunes, arid gravel plains, craggy mountains, and old volcanoes, as well as a few oases.



Kilimanjaro
Africa's highest mountain is a long-extinct volcano. Its famous ice and snow cap is getting smaller every year.

Kilimanjaro
5,895 m /
19,341 ft

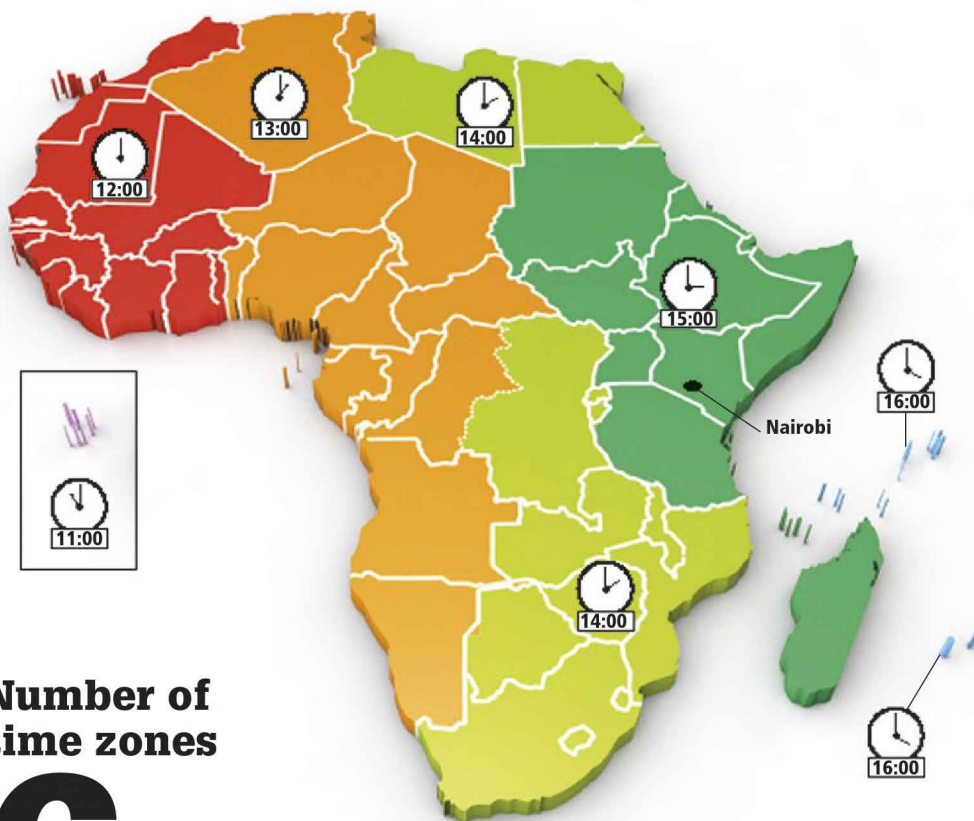
Okavango Delta
Seasonal flooding fills this large inland delta. Water drains into the Kalahari Desert, not the sea.

River Nile
At 6,695 km (4,160 miles), the Nile is the world's longest river. It has two main tributaries, the Blue and White Niles, which join in Khartoum, Sudan, before the river flows through Egypt.



Namib Desert
The extremely dry Namib Desert includes the Namib Sand Sea – giant coastal dunes up to 300 m (985 ft) high, that are often swept in dense fogs.

Fascinating facts



Number of
time zones

6



The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 15:00 in Nairobi, Kenya (3 hours ahead of UCT).

COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS



Tanzania (8)

Burundi, **Democratic Republic of Congo**, Kenya, **Malawi**, Mozambique, **Rwanda**, Uganda, **Zambia**



Zambia (8)

Angola, **Botswana**, Democratic Republic of Congo, **Malawi**, Mozambique, **Namibia**, Tanzania, **Zimbabwe**

LONGEST BRIDGE

6th October Bridge,
Cairo, Egypt –
20.5 km (12.7 miles)



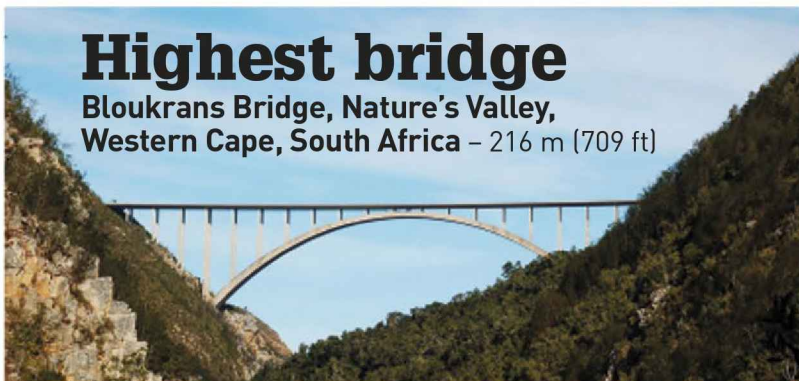
16

LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES

Botswana ▪ **Burkina Faso** ▪ Burundi ▪ **Central African Republic** ▪
Chad ▪ **Ethiopia** ▪ Lesotho ▪ **Malawi** ▪ Mali ▪ **Niger** ▪ Rwanda ▪
South Sudan ▪ Swaziland ▪ **Uganda** ▪ Zambia ▪ **Zimbabwe**

Highest bridge

Bloukrans Bridge, Nature's Valley,
Western Cape, South Africa – 216 m (709 ft)



Number of
languages
spoken

more than

2,000

LAKES

● Largest: **Lake Victoria**,
Uganda / Tanzania / Kenya –
69,484 sq km (26,828 sq miles)

Deepest: **Lake Tanganyika**,
Burundi / Democratic Republic of Congo /
Tanzania / Zambia – 1,470 m (4,823 ft) deep



WATERFALLS

Highest: **Tugela Falls**,
South Africa –
948 m (3,110 ft)

● Largest (by volume):
Victoria Falls,
Zimbabwe / Zaire –
1,088 m³ (38,422 ft³)
of water per second



LONGEST COASTLINE Madagascar – 4,828 km (3,000 miles)



Busiest airport O.R. Tambo International, Johannesburg, South Africa – **19.164 million passengers per year**



Longest railway line
The Blue Train,
Pretoria–Cape Town,
South Africa –
1,600 km (994 miles)



Longest metro system
Cairo Metro, Egypt –
78 km (48 miles)

Most visited cities

Johannesburg, S. Africa
3.6 million

Cairo, Egypt
1.5 million

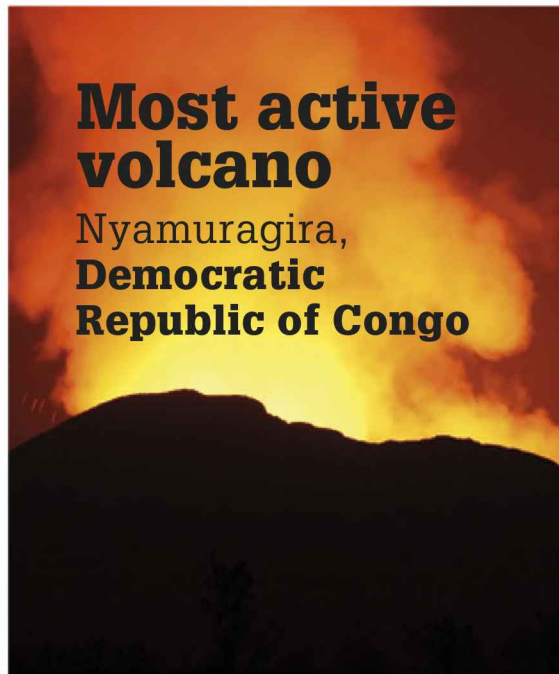
Cape Town, S. Africa
1.4 million

Casablanca, Morocco
1.1 million

Durban, S. Africa
0.8 million

Most active volcano

Nyamuragira,
Democratic Republic of Congo



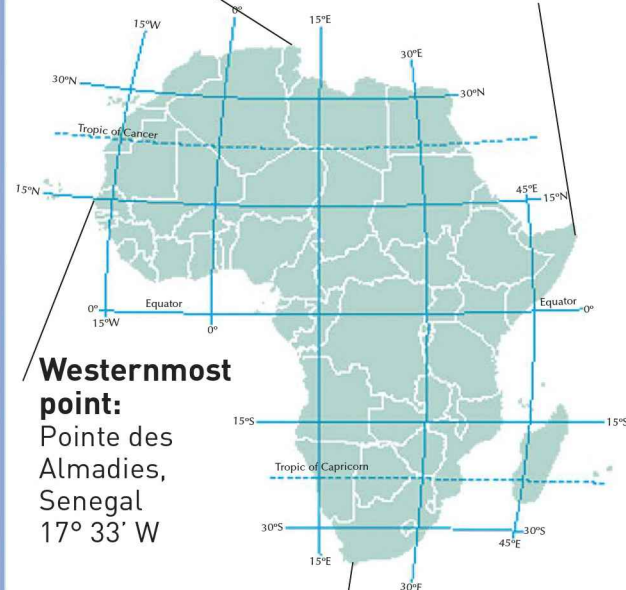
LOWEST POINT

Lake 'Assal, Djibouti –
156 m (512 ft) below sea level

AFRICA'S EXTREME POINTS

Northernmost point:
Jalta, Tunisia
37° 31' N

Easternmost point:
Raas Xaafuun,
Somalia
51° 24' E



Westernmost point:
Pointe des Almadies,
Senegal
17° 33' W

Southernmost point:
Cape Agulhas, South Africa
34° 52' S

Algiers
Algeria's capital and largest city, it has a population of 3.1 million.

Tunis
Almost 2 million people live in Tunisia's capital.

Casablanca
Morocco's largest city and busiest port has 3.4 million inhabitants.

Niger has the **highest birth rate** in the world; **women** here have an average of **7.6 children**.

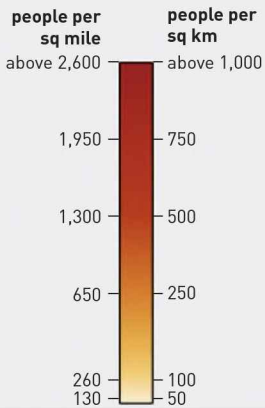
Mauritania
As 90 per cent of this country lies in the Sahara Desert, its population density is very low, with only 4 people per sq km (10 per sq mile).

Dakar
Senegal's capital has a population density of 13,800 people per sq km (35,800 per sq mile).

Lagos

Nigeria's largest city has a population of 13.1 million. A further 8 million live in the area surrounding the city.

POPULATION DENSITY

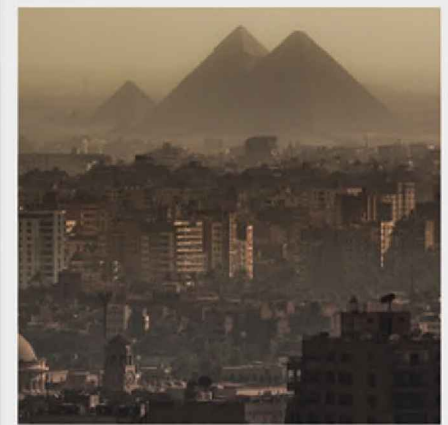


KEY

The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/ square mile.

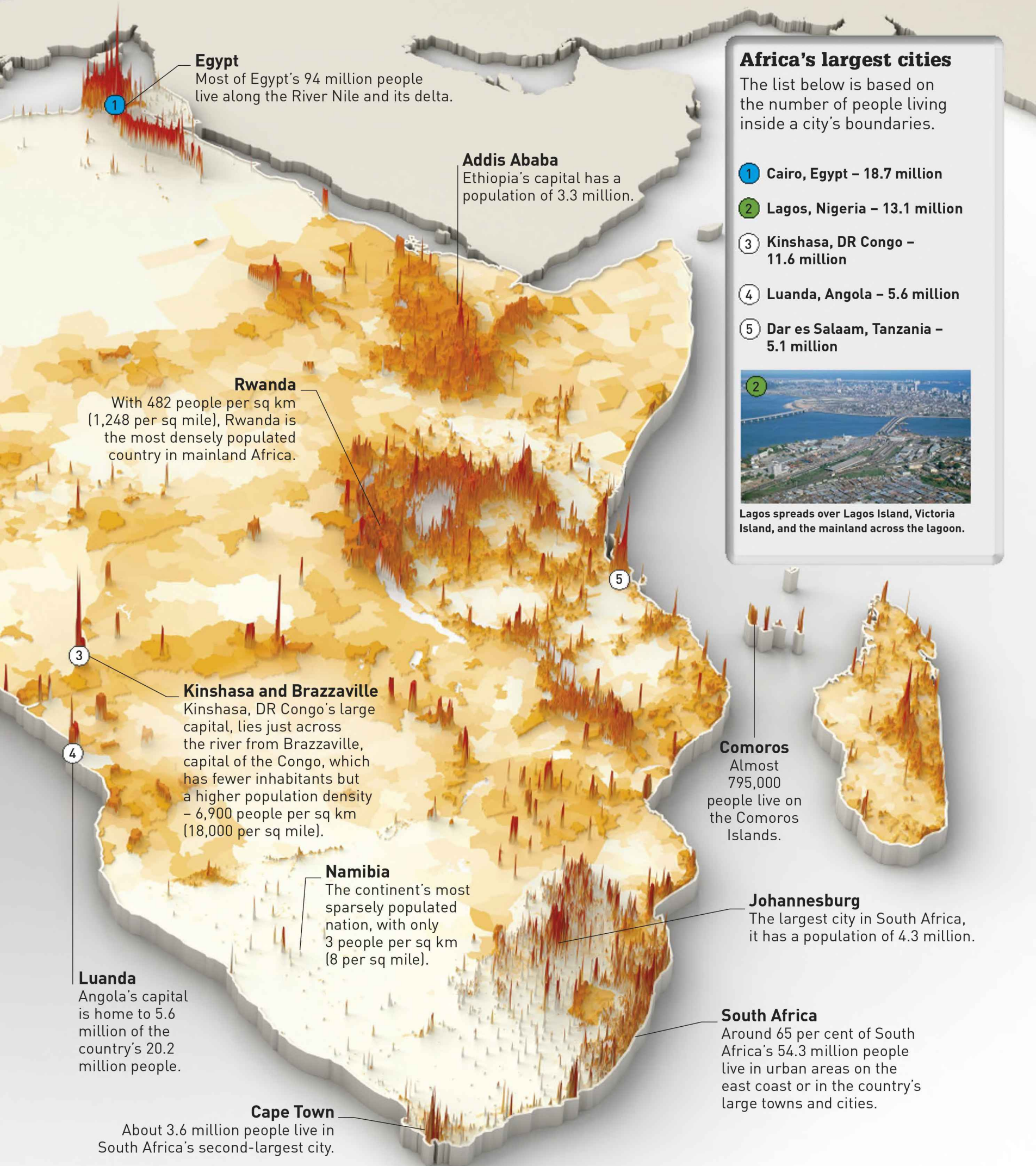
Population

Africa, the birthplace of our earliest human ancestors, is the second-most populous continent in the world (after Asia). But because the continent is so large, its average population density is low – only half that of Europe. In reality, some regions are very crowded, while others, like the Sahara, are almost deserted.



1 Cairo, Egypt

Founded in ancient times and Egypt's capital since 1168, Cairo is Africa's largest city, with 18.7 million inhabitants. Greater Cairo sprawls in all directions, and includes the famous pyramids at Giza.





Rwenzori Mountains

The snow-capped peaks of this range in the Western Rift Valley include Mount Stanley, Africa's third highest mountain at 5,109 m (16,762 ft).



Red Sea

Formed when the African and Arabian plates split apart, and still widening, this salty sea can reach over 30°C (86°F). Its coral reefs are teeming with fish.



Ethiopian Highlands

Ahmar Mountains
ETHIOPIA
Mēga Escarpment

SOUTH
SUDAN

Lake Turkana

Cherangany Hills

Victoria Nile

Lake Kyoga

UGANDA

Lake Albert

Sese Islands

Lake
Victoria

Ukerewe Island

Rubondo Island

Lake Edward

RWANDA

Lake Kivu

BURUNDI

Western Rift Valley

The western branch of the Great Rift Valley is characterized by deep lakes and high mountain ranges.

Lake Victoria

Africa's largest lake lies on the plateau located between the Great Rift Valley's eastern and western branch. At its widest, it measures 337 km (209 miles) across.

G r e a t
V a l l e y
R i f t
L a k e T a n g a n y i k a

Lake Tanganyika

The longest of the Rift Valley's many lakes, Tanganyika is, at 1,436 m (4,710 ft) deep, also the world's second deepest (after Lake Baikal).



The Great Rift Valley

Afar Triangle

This extremely hot, low-lying, molten-rock desert is where the rifts between the Arabian, African, and Somali plates meet.



Horn of Africa

The Great Rift Valley is a growing rift between three of Earth's plates.



This split, causing earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and a changing landscape, began around 25 million years ago. It runs for approximately 6,000 km (3,700 miles) from the Middle East to Mozambique, but its most famous section is found in northeast Africa.

Kirinyaga

At 5,199 m (17,057 ft), this is Africa's second-highest peak.

K E N Y A

Ngorogoro Crater

Serengeti Plain

Lake Eyasi

Ngorogoro Crater

The Ngorogoro is an old volcanic crater, home to wildebeests, zebras, rhinos, and lions.

Gombe

Kilimanjaro

Africa's highest mountain reaches 5,895 m (19,341 ft).

Masai Steppe

Usambara Mountains

Pemba

Zanzibar

G r e a t
R i f t
V a l l e y

T A N Z A N I A

Shama

Lake Rukwa

Livingstone Mountains



Lake Natron

Like most of the Eastern Rift Valley lakes, the shallow water of Lake Natron is very salty and full of algae – making it a perfect breeding spot for flamingos.

Lake Nyasa

Southernmost of the Rift Valley's lakes, Nyasa contains around 1,000 types of cichlid, a small, colourful fish.

Z A M B I A

Desert stop-offs

Trading centres that served travellers crossing the Sahara Desert in the 11th and 12th centuries.

Roman towns
 Timgad is one of North Africa's many ancient Roman settlements.

Koutoubia Mosque,
 Marrakech,
 Morocco

Timgad,
 Algeria

Leptis Magna
 ancient Roman
 site, Libya

Great pyramid
 The oldest of Giza's three pyramids was built over 4,500 years ago.

Guelta d'Archei,
 Chad

Koutammakou
 The mud-tower houses (takienta) of the Batammariba tribe have become a symbol of Togo.

Ancient Ksour
 of Ouadane,
 Mauritania

Afzejare Arch,
 Acacus Mountains,
 Libya

Agadez Mosque,
 Niger

Guelta d'Archei
 The most famous desert pool in the Sahara, it has been a resting place for travellers and their camels for thousands of years.

Island of Gorée,
 Senegal



Stone circles
 of Senegambia,
 Senegal and Gambia

Great Mosque,
 Djenné, Mali

Koutammakou,
 Togo

Osun-Osogbo
 Sacred Grove,
 Nigeria

Dzanga-Sangha
 Special Reserve,
 Central African
 Republic

Grim reminder

Gorée, an island off the coast of Senegal's capital, Dakar, was the largest slave-trading centre in Africa between the 15th and 19th centuries.

Greater
 Accra forts,
 Ghana

Sacred Grove

The Yoruba people of Nigeria once prayed to their many gods in sacred places in the forest. This grove, honouring the river goddess Osun, is one of the last left.

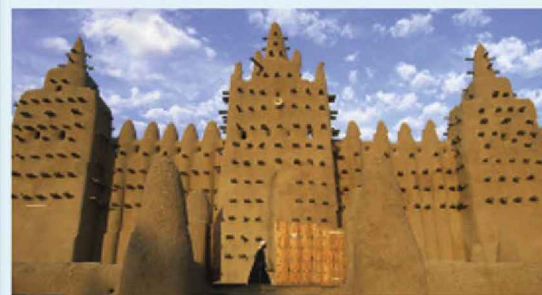
Kisantu Cathedral,
 Democratic Rep.
 of Congo

Famous landmarks

Africa boasts breathtaking natural beauty and ancient archaeological wonders. It is home to the rich wildlife of the Serengeti and the thunderous waters of Victoria Falls. And towering minarets, ancient pyramids, and monumental mud-brick architecture reflect the continent's rich cultural history.

● Great Mosque, Djenné

Djenné was one of the great cities of the rich Mali Empire, one of Africa's medieval kingdoms, and its mosque was a famous centre of learning. Built of sun-baked bricks made of sand and earth, it was reconstructed in 1907.





Pyramids, Giza, Egypt

Royal graves

Nubian kings and queens were buried in these slender pyramids.

Gebel Barkal, Sudan

Lalibela Churches, Ethiopia

Cut from the rock

These cross-shaped churches were carved straight from the rock in the 13th century.

World's deepest river

The mighty Congo reaches depths of over 220 m (720 ft).

Fasil Ghebbi fortress, Gondar, Ethiopia

Congo River, Congo/Democratic Rep. of Congo

Fort Jesus, Mombasa Island, Kenya

Victoria Falls

Two national parks protect the rich wildlife around this spectacular waterfall. The river then flows through six dramatic gorges.

Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

St Michaels and All Angels Church, Blantyre, Malawi

Ships' graveyard

Many ships have been wrecked on the foggy Skeleton Coast, which is dotted with shipwrecks.

Victoria Falls, Zambia

Okavango Delta, Botswana

Great Zimbabwe Monument, Zimbabwe

Royal city

The ruined capital of the Kingdom of Zimbabwe (c. 1100–1450) was once a prosperous, gold-exporting land.

Skeleton Coast, Namibia

Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria, South Africa

Fish River Canyon, Namibia

KEY

○ Landmark location

Table Mountain

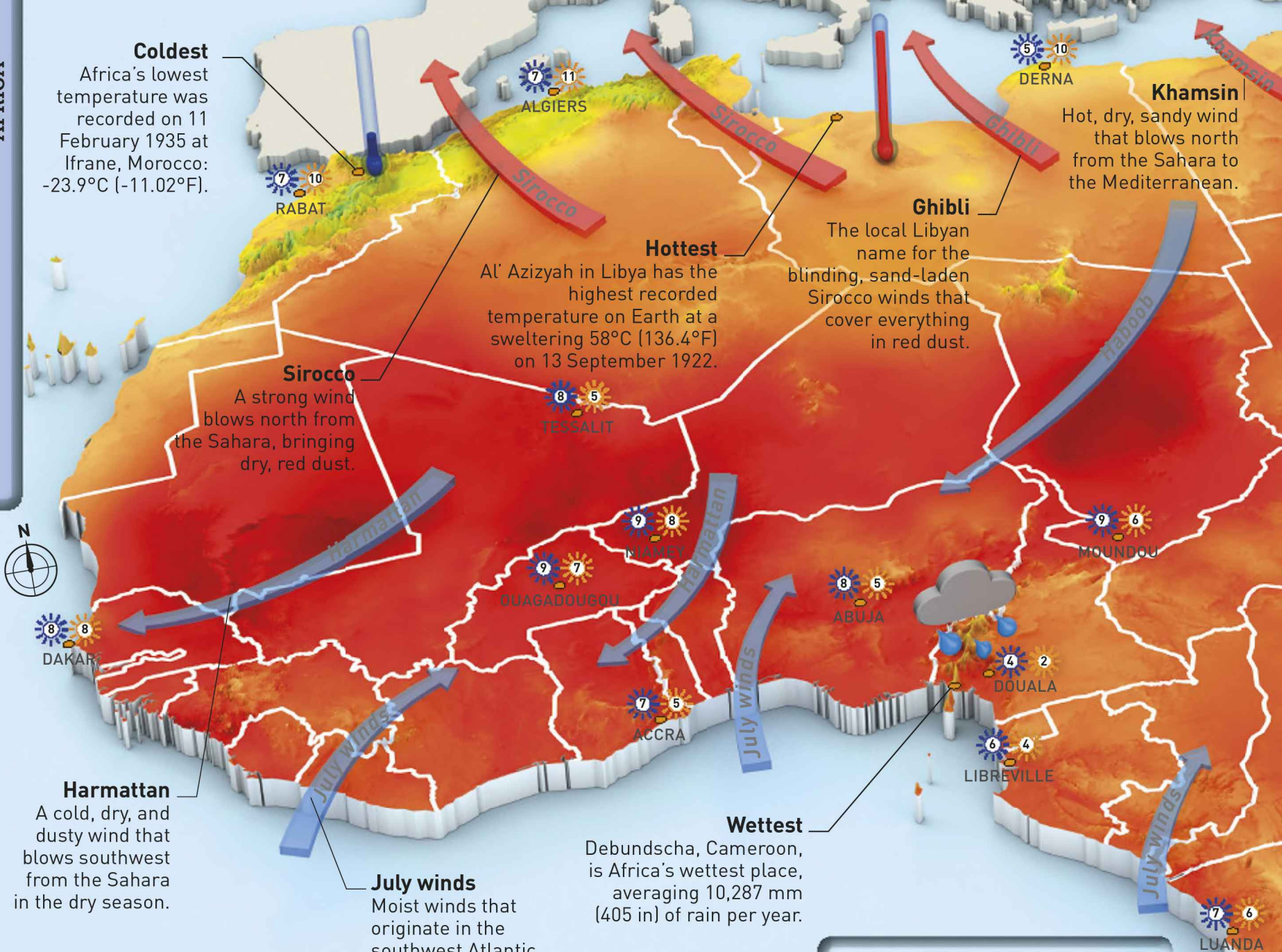
Cape Town's much-photographed, flat-topped mountain is a part of a large national park, in which over 2,000 species of plant grow. A cable car takes visitors up to the top of the plateau, and it is popular for hiking, caving, and rock-climbing.



Andringita National Park, Madagascar

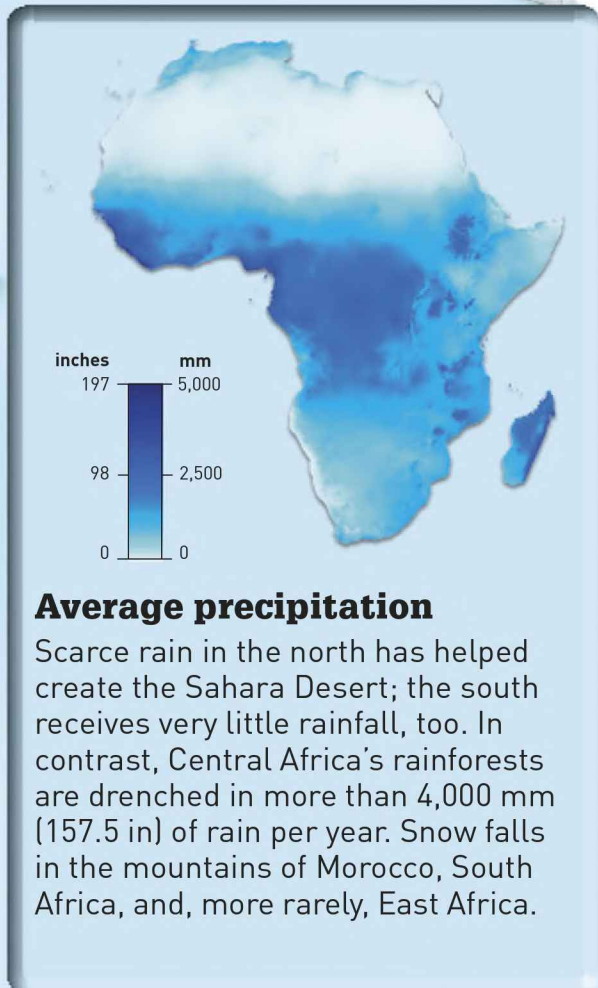
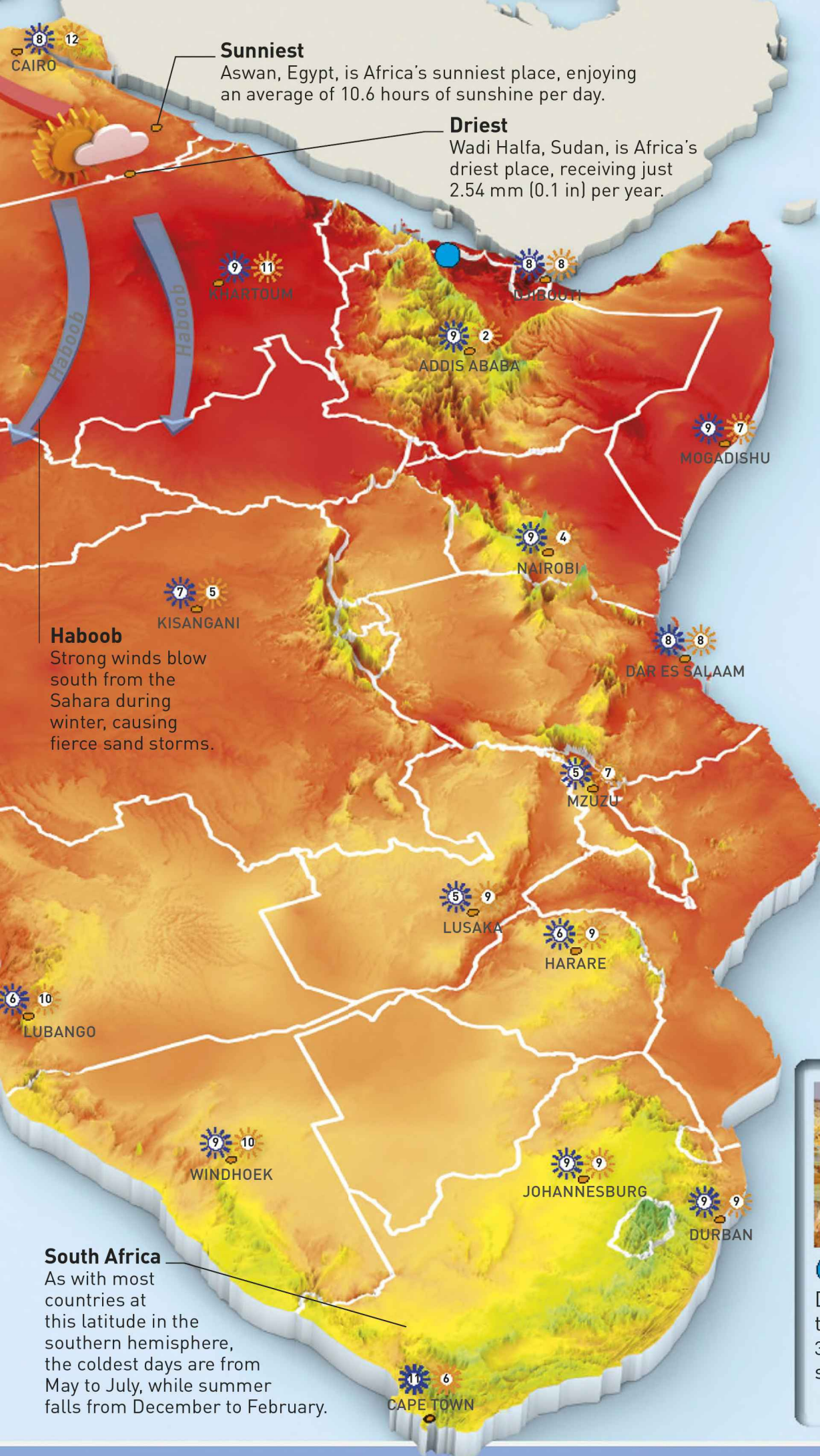
Egypt is Africa's most visited country, with 9.5 million visitors in 2013.

Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa



Climate

Africa is the world's hottest continent, and dry lands and deserts make up more than half of its terrain. Central Africa sits on either side of the Equator and has a hot, humid climate. The southern parts of Africa are cooler, due to their distance from the Equator and high, mountainous areas.



Hot spot

Dallol, in Ethiopia's Danakil Desert, has the world's highest average temperature: 34.4°C (94°F). The area's few lakes are salt-encrusted and full of sulphur.

Dromedary camel

The Arabian camel has a single hump, which stores fat that the body converts into energy and water.

Deathstalker scorpion

This venomous arachnid feeds at night and lives in cool, shady burrows.

Nile crocodile

An aggressive reptile that surprise-attacks from submerged hiding places.

Ruppell's vulture

Has a powerful, hooked bill for ripping flesh and crushing bone from animal carcasses.

Spotted hyena

Can see in the dark and lives, hunts, and scavenges in female-led groups.

African rock python

Non-venomous but highly aggressive, this is one of the largest snake species, growing up to 7 m (23 ft) in length.

Chimpanzee

Lives in a community and eats mainly fruit and leaves.

African bush elephant

The largest land animal, this elephant lives in grasslands, tropical forests, and semi-deserts.

Lemon shark

This shark favours warm, shallow waters, and uses sensors (called electroreceptors) to detect hidden prey on the ocean floor.

Hippopotamus

This grass-eater is a fast runner, and spends much of its day in the water to cool off.

Whale shark

The largest fish in the world, this shark grows up to 20 m (65.6 ft) and feeds on tiny organisms, such as plankton and krill.

Wildlife

No safari of Africa is complete without seeing the big five – elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino, and leopard – but the African continent is also home to an incredible variety of other animals. Many of these are exclusive to their region, such as the lemur, which can only be found in Madagascar.

BIOMES

Africa is dominated by tropical and sub-tropical grasslands, jungles of tropical broadleaf forest, and dry desert regions.

- Mediterranean
- Tropical broadleaf forest
- Tropical dry broadleaf forest
- Tropical/sub-tropical grassland
- Mountain
- Desert
- Flooded grassland
- Mangrove

Giraffe

Its long legs and neck make it easy to reach leaves at the tops of trees, but hard to bend down to drink.

African wild dog

Hunts in packs to bring down large prey, such as wildebeest.

Serval

Long back legs help this cat jump to snatch birds in flight.

Eastern gorilla

The largest of the primates, it eats mainly fruit and leaves.

African buffalo

Formidably strong with curled horns, females and young live in herds for safety.

Ostrich

The largest bird and fastest two-legged runner in the world.

Leopard

An incredibly strong cat that can drag large prey up trees to eat.

Lion

The only big cat that lives in groups, its roar can be heard up to 8 km (5 miles) away.

Aye aye

One of around 50 species of lemur in Madagascar, it uses its long, thin middle finger to scrape out grubs from trees.

Black rhinoceros

A two-horned rhino with a pointed upper lip that plucks leaves and fruit from bushes.

Warthog

A long-legged pig with four sharp tusks used for defence and foraging.

Cheetah

The fastest animal on Earth, it can run at speeds of up to 100 km/h (60 mph).

Meerkat

Groups work together to look out for predators while foraging for food.

Springbok

Small, speedy antelope that springs high into the air when startled.

Black mamba

A highly venomous snake that reveals the black inside its mouth when threatened.

Tiger shark

A savage scavenger of immense bulk that eats anything it can find in the ocean.

Great white shark

This shark is a fierce predator that surprises prey by attacking it from below.

Mass migration

The Serengeti, in East Africa, hosts the world's largest annual migration. More than a million wildebeest move along a circular route on the plain searching for food.



Algeria

Around 70 per cent of Algeria's 39.5 million inhabitants live in urban areas, mainly in the north.

**Bamako**

Mali's capital, home to 2.5 million people, is the largest city in the westernmost part of West Africa.

Ghana

In Ghana, 54 per cent of the population of 26.9 million live in urban areas, such as Accra and Kumasi.

Lagos

With millions living in poorly lit slums, this bright spot does not reflect the true size of Nigeria's largest city.

By night

The speed at which cities grow in population is very high in Africa. But here, not all densely populated places show up at night – poorer areas do not have street lights, lit-up shop windows, or even electric indoor lights. Most dark areas, however, are desert, jungle, or savannah.



● **Niger Delta oil fields**

Much of the strong glow in Nigeria's Niger Delta comes from the many oil fields, with their open gas flares, big refineries, and busy ports.

Source of life

Cities, towns, and roads light the course of the Nile, showing the river's great importance to this desert country.

Khartoum

The Sudanese capital lies next to two other big cities, Omdurman and Bahri. Their combined population is just over 5 million.

Nairobi

Around 3.5 million people live in Kenya's capital, with nearly as many in its fast-growing suburbs.

Antananarivo

Madagascar's capital houses 2.6 million of the island's 24.4 million inhabitants.

Gauteng Province

Gauteng is South Africa's most populous province and home to Johannesburg, the country's largest city. Also here is the huge township of Soweto and the capital, Pretoria.

Botswana

Botswana is one of Africa's most sparsely populated countries.

Durban

South Africa's second-largest city has a population of 3.1 million.

Night in the wild


Only the moon illuminates Africa's great wildernesses at night, be it the Sahara and Kalahari deserts, the jungles of central Africa, or the vast grasslands of the Serengeti in Tanzania.




Giraffes on the plains of the Serengeti, Tanzania, at night.

KEY

Less developed infrastructure in parts of Africa means that not all urban areas are lit up.

 Rural area

 Urban area



EUROPE



Europe from space

The European continent lies in the northern hemisphere and has an eastern land border with Asia. The distinctive "boot" of Italy is clearly visible in this image.

Countries and borders

The borders of European countries have changed many times over history, as conquering armies advanced and defeated ones retreated. In the 20th century, two world wars shook the continent, and conflict and political change continue to shape the continent's borders.



ATLANTIC
OCEAN

FAST FACTS

Total land area:

10,498,000 sq km
(4,053,300 sq miles)

Total population:

743 million

Number of

countries: 46

Largest country:

Russian Federation
(European section)
– 3,955,818 sq km
(1,527,350 sq miles)

Smallest country:

Vatican City – 0.44 sq km
(0.17 sq miles)

Largest country population:

Russian Federation
(European section) –
110 million



Approximately **25 per cent** of the **Russian Federation** lies **within Europe**; the rest is in Asia.

RUSSIAN
FEDERATION

The Russian Federation

Russia is a vast federation (union) of states that crosses two continents, Europe and Asia. Until 1991, it was a bigger nation, called the Soviet Union, which then split into 15 new states. Of these, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova are now independent countries in Europe.

KEY

 Capital city

 Major city

Turkey

Geographically, 3 per cent of Turkey lies within Europe. The majority of the country is in Asia.

EUROPEAN UNION

The formation of the European Economic Community (now the European Union) in 1957 saw many European countries move towards a closer political and economic union.

KEY

6 original members, 1957

9 further members, 1973-95

10 further members. 2004

2 further members. 2007

1 further member, 2013

Balkan countries

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia used to be in a country called Yugoslavia. They became separate countries between 1991 and 2006 following years of conflict.

Landscape



Novaya
Zemlya

Despite its small size, the continent of Europe has an incredibly diverse landscape. To the northwest, east, and south, it is enclosed by mountains. In between, lies the North European Plain, which stretches 4,000 km (2,485 miles) from eastern England to the Ural Mountains in Russia.

Iceland

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

Norwegian
Sea

Barents Sea

Kola
Peninsula

Faroe Islands

Shetland
Islands

Orkney Islands

Outer Hebrides

Ireland

Britain

British
Isles

English Channel

North
Sea

North

Baltic Sea

Vänern

Vättern

Jutland

Seine

Loire

Mont Blanc
4,808 m /
15,780 ft

Rhône

Alps

Appennines

Bay of
Biscay

Pyrenees

Corsica

Sardinia

Balearic Islands
Mediterranean

AFRICA

Iberian
Peninsula

Douro

Ebro

FAST FACTS

1 Highest point:
Mount Elbrus, Russia –
5,642 m (18,510 ft)

2 Longest river:
Volga, Russia –
3,688 km (2,291 miles)

3 Largest lake:
Lake Ladoga, Russia –
18,390 sq km
(7,100 sq miles)

4 Largest island:
Britain (England,
Wales, and Scotland) –
229,848 sq km
(88,745 sq miles)



Europe's largest lake, Ladoga lies close to the city of St Petersburg, in Russia.



KEY

The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

ELEVATION

Feet	Metres
above 26,247	above 8,000
22,965	7,000
19,685	6,000
16,404	5,000
13,123	4,000
9,842	3,000
6,560	2,000
3,280	1,000
Sea level 0	0 Sea level

River Danube

Measuring 2,860 km (1,777 miles), the Danube is Europe's second longest river. It rises in Germany and passes through nine countries before flowing into the Black Sea.



1 Mount Elbrus

At 5,642 m (18,510 ft), Mount Elbrus is Europe's highest mountain. A snow-covered, dormant volcano, it lies in the Caucasus Mountains in southern Russia, on the geographical dividing line between Europe and Asia.

Fascinating facts

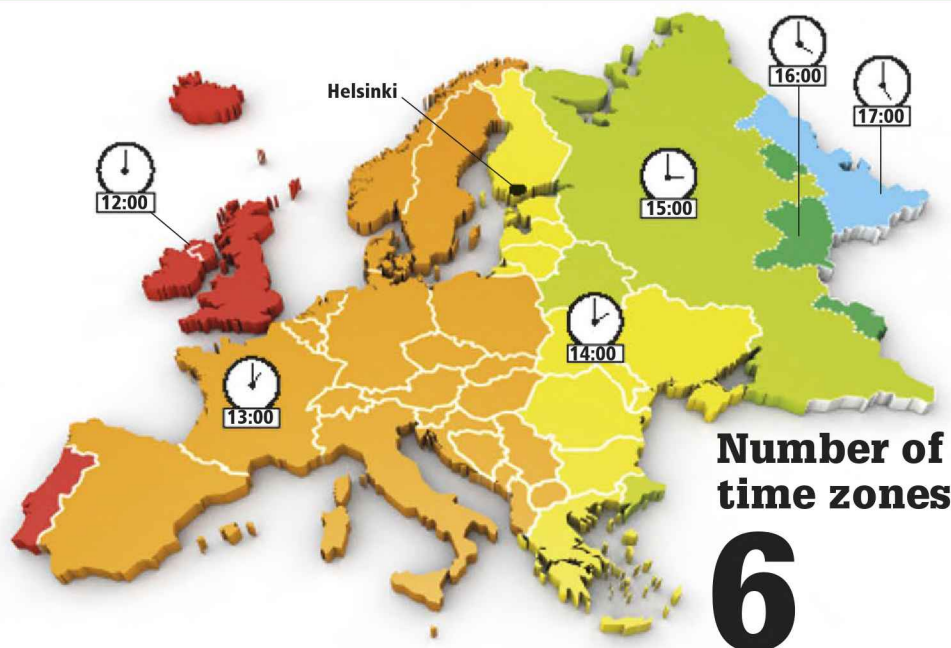
Landlocked countries – 14

Andorra ▪ Austria ▪ **Belarus** ▪ Czech Republic ▪ **Hungary** ▪ Liechtenstein ▪ **Luxembourg** ▪ Macedonia ▪ **Moldova** ▪ San Marino ▪ **Serbia** ▪ Slovakia ▪ **Switzerland** ▪ Vatican City

Number of languages

39

There are 39 official European languages and many more regional languages and dialects.



Number of time zones

6

The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 14:00 in Helsinki, Finland (2 hours ahead of UCT).

Deepest lake

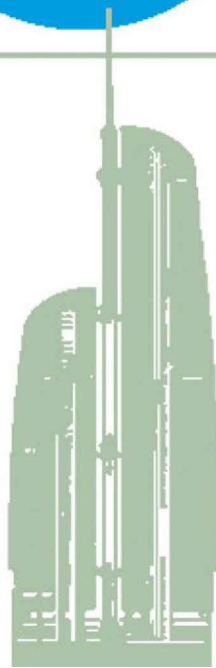
Hornindalsvattnet, Norway –
514 m (1,686 ft)



Fastest train

Europe's fastest train is the **Frecciarossa 1000** in **Italy**, which can reach speeds of up to **400 km/h (249 mph)**

Tallest buildings



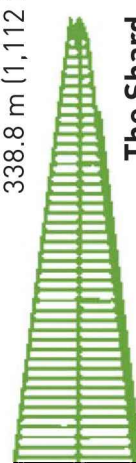
Federation Tower
Moscow, Russia
373.7 m (1,226 ft)



OKO: South Tower
Moscow, Russia
354.1 m (1,162 ft)



Mercury City Tower
Moscow, Russia
338.8 m (1,112 ft)



The Shard
London, United Kingdom
309.6 m (1,016 ft)



Eurasia
Moscow, Russia
308.9 m (1,013 ft)



WATERFALLS

🟡 Highest:
Vinnufossen, Norway
– 860 m (2,821 ft)

Largest (by volume):
Dettifoss, Iceland –
200 m³ (7,063 ft³) of water
per second

The falls are 100 m (328 ft) wide

Westernmost point:

Bjargtangar, Iceland
24° 33' W

Northernmost point:

Ostrov Rudol'fa,
Russia, 81° 47' N

Southernmost point:

Gávdos, Greece,
34° 51' N

Easternmost point:

Cape Flissingskiy,
Novaya Zemlya,
Russia, 69° 03' E



Europe's extreme points



Busiest airport Heathrow Airport, London, UK: **74,985 million passengers per year**

Longest tunnels



Railway tunnel
Gotthard Base Tunnel,
Switzerland –
57.09 km (35.5 miles)



Metro line
Serpukhovsko line,
Moscow, Russia –
41.5 km (25.8 miles)



Road tunnel
Laerdal, Norway
– 24.53 km
(15.2 miles)

Longest bridge

Vasco da Gama,
Lisbon, Portugal

17.185 km (10.68 miles)

Biggest glacier

Severnny Island ice cap –
northern island of the Novaya
Zemlya archipelago in Russia
– **20,500 sq km (7,915 sq miles)**

Longest coastline



Norway

25,148 km (15,626 miles)

Highest mountains

2. Dychtau

Russia
5,204 m (17,073 ft)

1. Mount Elbrus

Russia
5,642 m (18,510 ft)

3. Mont Blanc

France
4,808 m (15,774 ft)

4. Dufourspitze

Switzerland
4,634 m (15,203 ft)

5. Zumsteinspitze

Switzerland
4,563 m (14,970 ft)

Most active volcano

Mount Etna, Italy

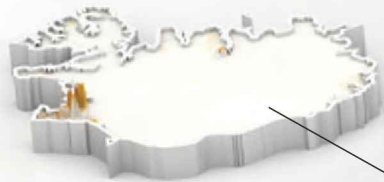
Highest bridge

Millau Viaduct, France –
bridge deck is **270 m (886 ft)** above the ground



Population

Europe is the world's second-most densely populated continent (after Asia), with an average of 73 people per sq km (188 per sq mile). The majority of Europe's population live in the northern half of the continent.



Iceland

This island of volcanoes and icy wilderness has the lowest population density in Europe – 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile).

Norway

Scandinavia's most sparsely populated country, with 16 people per sq km (42 people per sq mile).

Netherlands

With a population of 17 million, this is one of Europe's most densely populated nations, at 409 people per sq km (1,060 per sq mile).

Europe's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

- 1 Istanbul, Turkey – 14.7 million
- 2 Moscow, Russia – 12.3 million
- 3 London, United Kingdom – 8.7 million
- 4 St Petersburg, Russia – 5.2 million
- 5 Berlin, Germany – 3.6 million
- 6 Madrid, Spain – 3.1 million
- 7 Kiev, Ukraine – 2.9 million
- 8 Rome, Italy – 2.87 million
- 9 Paris, France – 2.2 million
- 10 Minsk, Belarus – 1.9 million



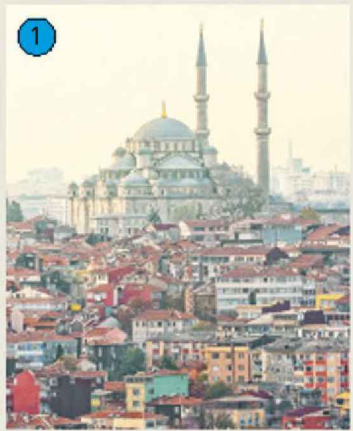
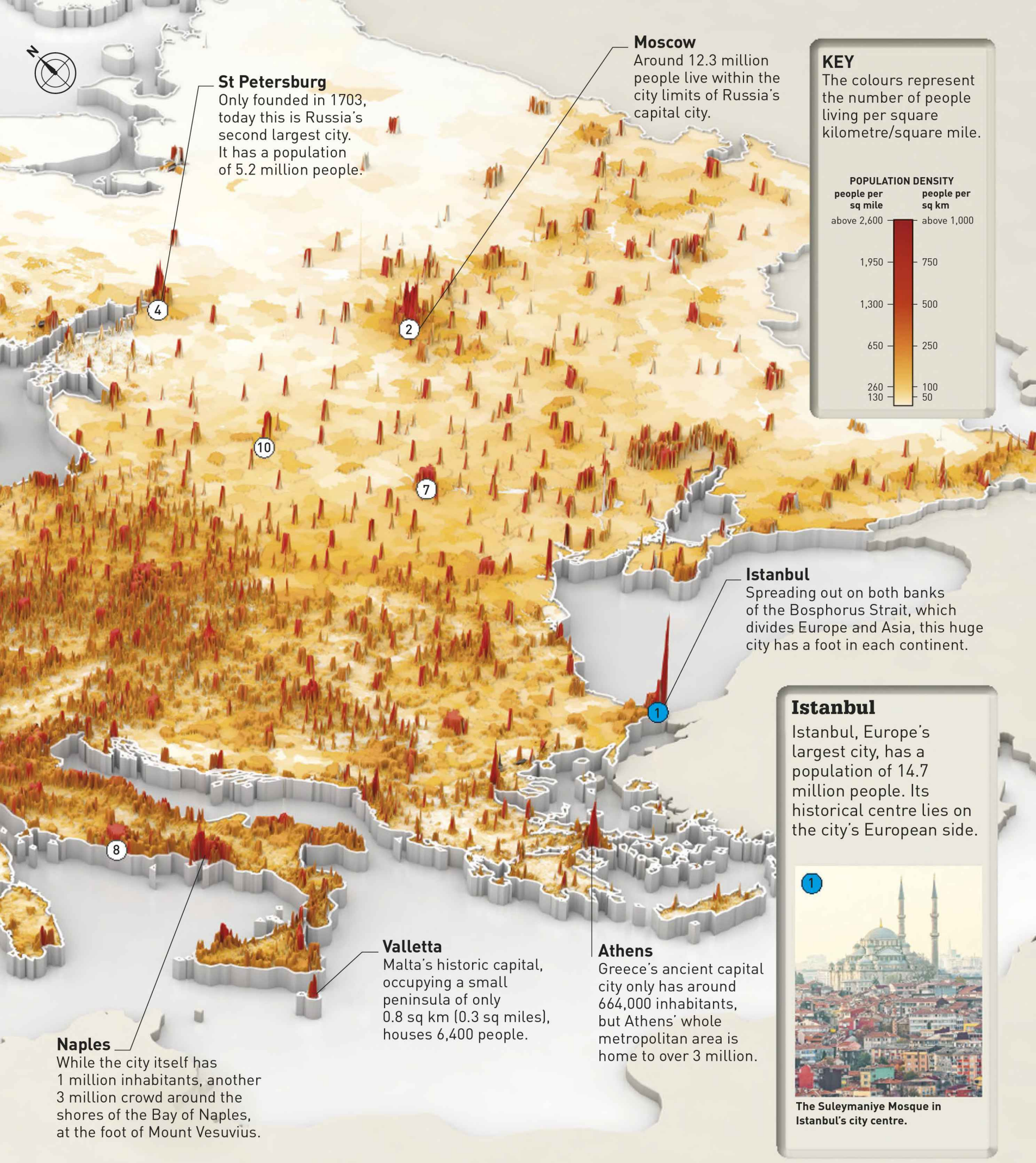
The Eiffel Tower dominates the skyline of Paris, France's most populous city.

Madrid

Population density in Spain's capital is 5,390 people per sq km (14,000 per sq mile), almost as high as that of London.

Monaco

The small principality is the world's most densely populated nation, with 15,291 people per sq km (39,602 per sq mile).



The Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul's city centre.

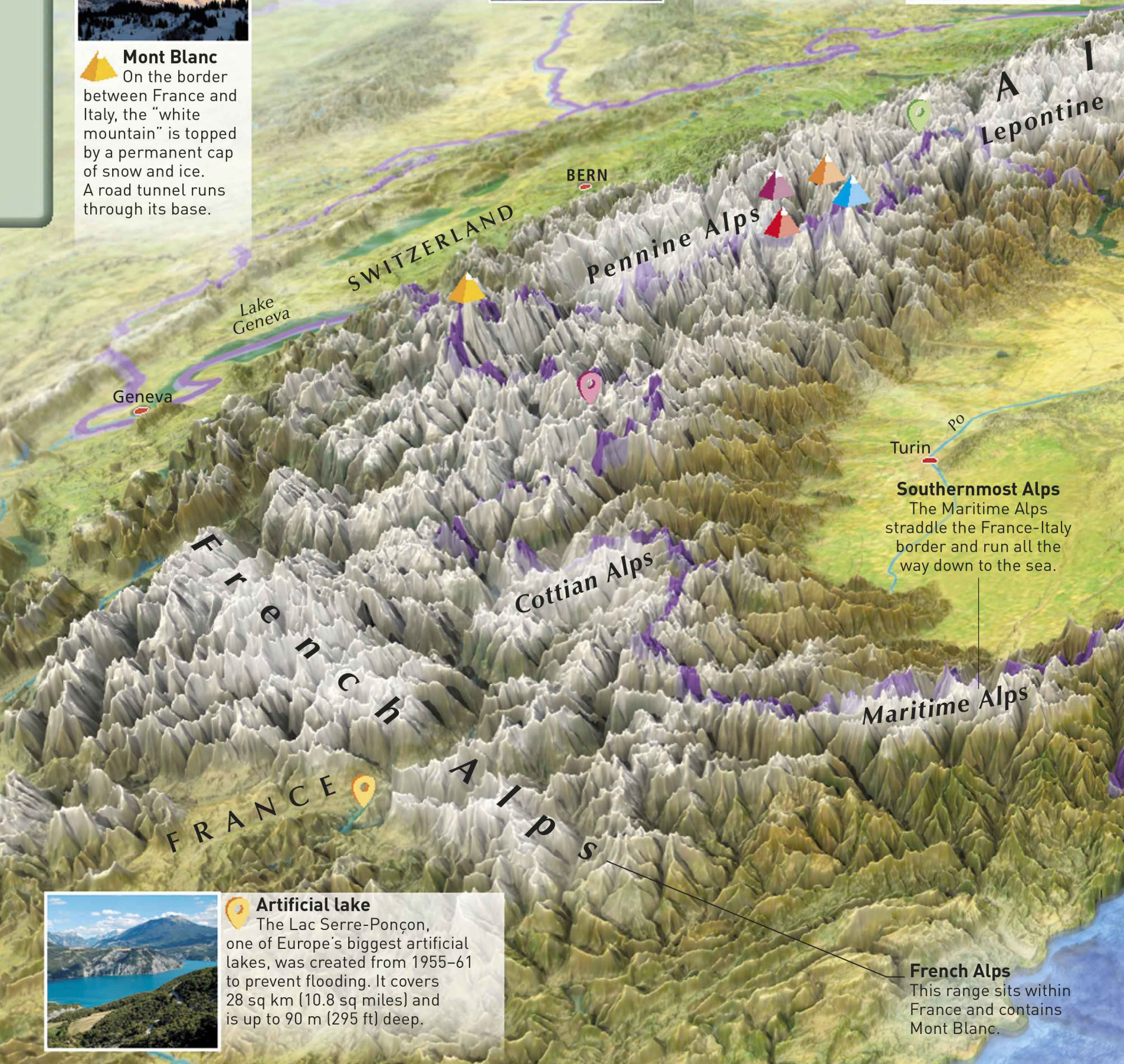


Mont Blanc
On the border between France and Italy, the “white mountain” is topped by a permanent cap of snow and ice. A road tunnel runs through its base.

Highest road
At 2,764 m (9,068 ft), Col de l’Iseran, France, is only accessible by car in summer. Tour de France cyclists have struggled over it several times.



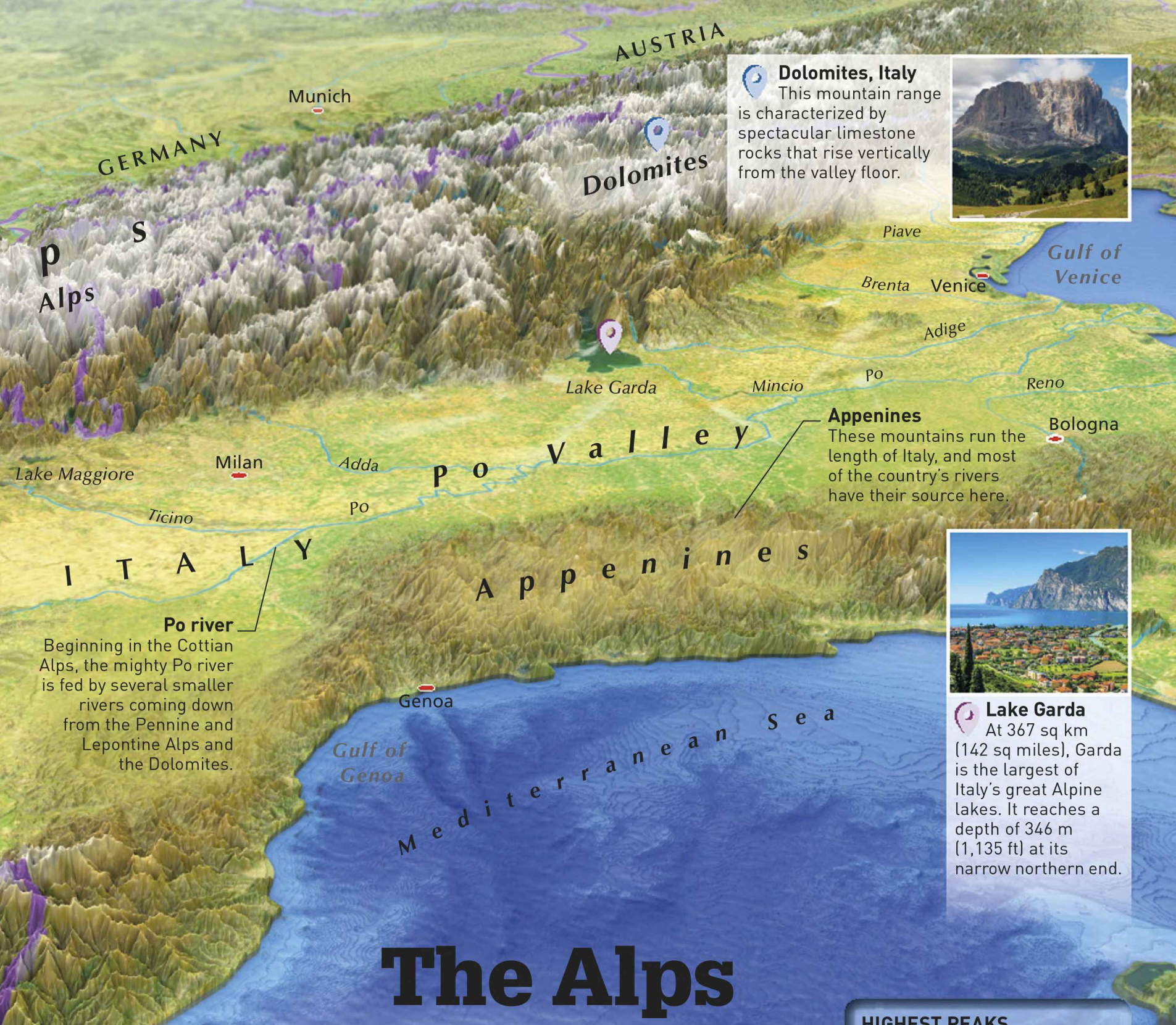
Biggest glacier
The Aletsch glacier, Switzerland, measures over 900 m (2,950 ft) at its thickest, and is 117 sq km (45 sq miles) in size, but it is melting every year.



Artificial lake
The Lac Serre-Ponçon, one of Europe’s biggest artificial lakes, was created from 1955–61 to prevent flooding. It covers 28 sq km (10.8 sq miles) and is up to 90 m (295 ft) deep.

Southernmost Alps
The Maritime Alps straddle the France-Italy border and run all the way down to the sea.

French Alps
This range sits within France and contains Mont Blanc.



Dolomites, Italy
This mountain range is characterized by spectacular limestone rocks that rise vertically from the valley floor.



Appenines
These mountains run the length of Italy, and most of the country's rivers have their source here.



Lake Garda
At 367 sq km (142 sq miles), Garda is the largest of Italy's great Alpine lakes. It reaches a depth of 346 m (1,135 ft) at its narrow northern end.

The Alps



The Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range in western Europe. Shaped like a crescent, they stretch across eight countries for 1,200 km (750 miles) and are 200 km (125 miles) wide at their broadest point. Over 100 peaks are in excess of 4,000 m (13,123 ft), the highest of which is Mont Blanc, on the France-Italy border.

HIGHEST PEAKS
With the exception of Mont Blanc, the Alps' highest peaks are all situated in Switzerland.

- Mont Blanc** 4,808 m (15,774 ft)
- Monte Rosa** 4,634 m (15,203 ft)
- Dom** 4,545 m (14,911 ft)
- Weisshorn** 4,506 m (14,783 ft)
- Matterhorn** 4,478 m (14,692 ft)

Famous landmarks

From prehistoric monuments and Roman ruins to medieval town centres, Gothic cathedrals, and Baroque palaces, Europe has a wealth of architectural treasures from across the ages. Some of its most famous landmarks are natural formations, often protected as national parks.



Thingvellir National Park, Iceland

United Kingdom

The 29 UNESCO heritage sites in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland include Stone Age monuments, castles, and feats of Victorian engineering.

Edinburgh Castle, Scotland

Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland

Stonehenge, England

Kinderdijk-Elshout Windmills, Netherlands

Big Ben, London, England

Eiffel Tower, Paris, France

Chartres Cathedral, France

Drottningholm Palace, Sweden

Urnes Stave Church, Norway

Kronborg Castle, Helsingør, Denmark

Charlottenburg Palace, Berlin, Germany

Aachen Cathedral, Germany

Hôtel de Ville, Brussels, Belgium

Rhaetian Railway, Switzerland

Palais des Papes, Avignon, France

Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy

Sagrada Familia, Barcelona, Spain

Toledo Cathedral, Spain

Torre de Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

Alhambra, Granada, Spain

Moorish Alhambra

Many of Spain's landmarks show the country's Arabic heritage, such as the Alhambra palace and gardens in Granada.

Landscapes

Europe has 468 national parks. Some are precious habitats or areas of natural beauty, while others contain particular geological formations.



Iceland's Thingvellir National Park lies at the meeting point between the North American and Eurasian plates.



Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland, is made of basalt columns in different formations, some like giant honeycombs.



Onion-dome churches

Onion domes top many churches in central and eastern Europe, the most famous of which is the colourful St Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

France is the **most visited** country in the world, with over **85 million** tourists per year.

Buildings

Europe's architectural landmarks, whether in ruins, reconstructed, or in their original glory, all tell fascinating tales of the continent's history and its people.



● The historic city centre of Riga, Latvia, is a mix of fine medieval buildings and some of the world's best Art Nouveau architecture.



● Meteora, Greece, features a breathtaking group of monasteries perched on vertical cliffs. Only six of the original 24 remain today.

Ancient Greek ruins

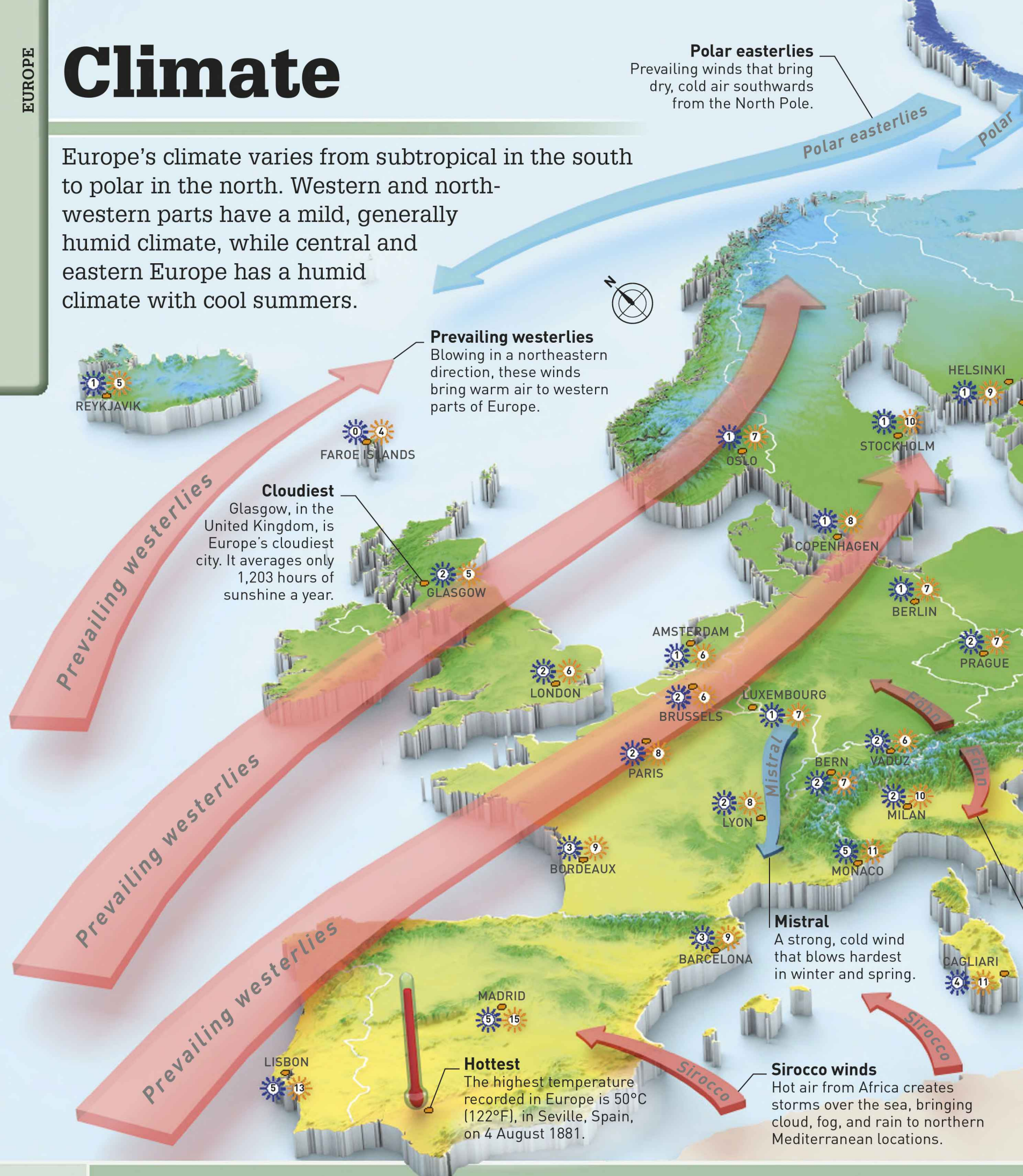
The Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, Sicily, is one of many ancient Greek sites dotted around the Mediterranean.

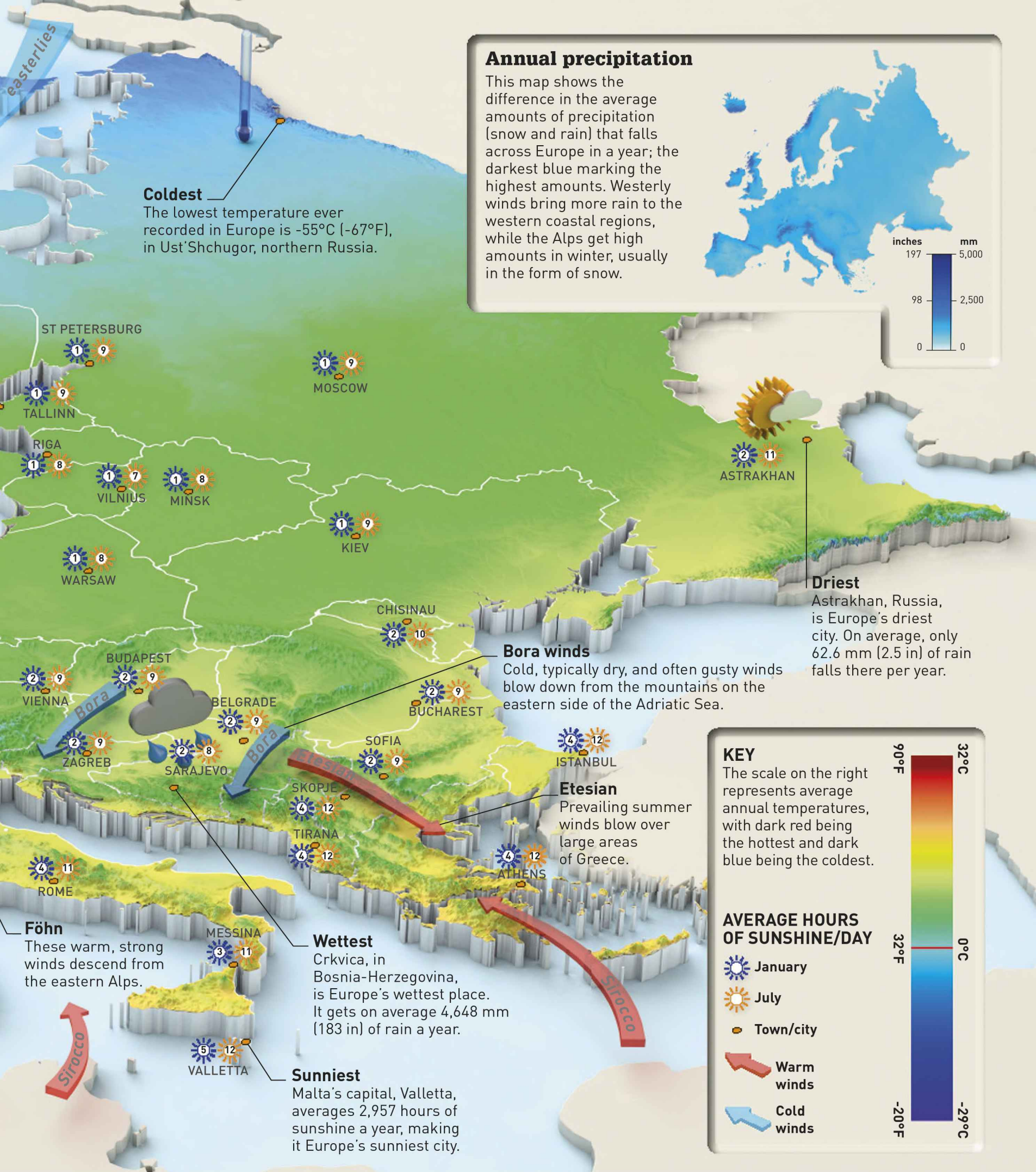
KEY

○ Landmark location

Climate

Europe's climate varies from subtropical in the south to polar in the north. Western and north-western parts have a mild, generally humid climate, while central and eastern Europe has a humid climate with cool summers.





Wildlife

In densely populated Europe there is not much wilderness left for animals to thrive in, but nature reserves and some species' ability to adapt mean that the continent's wildlife is still surprisingly varied.



Humpback whale

In winter, Arctic waters provide rich feeding grounds for these migrating whales.



Reindeer

Both male and female reindeer have antlers.



Eurasian lynx

Large padded paws prevent this big cat from sinking through the snow.



Elk

This giant of the forest is commonly seen in Scandinavia and the Baltic states.



Capercaillie

A bird famous for its spectacular courting rituals.



Arctic fox

Thick, white winter fur keeps this fox warm and camouflaged in snow and ice.



Red deer

Scotland has its own subspecies of this large deer, which is common throughout the continent.



Irish hare

Modern farming practices threaten this shy, nocturnal creature.



Basking shark

To feed, this gigantic shark simply keeps its mouth wide open as it swims.



Badger

Big groups live in setts (tunnels and underground chambers).



Pine marten

Hollow trees make good homes for this member of the weasel family.

Grey wolf

The largest of the dog family, wolves live in family packs in isolated, forested areas of Europe.



Alpine marmot

These rodents hibernate in burrows for up to nine months.



Pyrenean chamois

Close to extinction, as its skin was used for chamois gloves and polishing cloths, the numbers have recovered.



Iberian lynx

Only around 400 remain of the endangered Spanish lynx.



Golden eagle

This huge raptor picks and patrols huge territories in less populated areas across Europe.



European bee eater

Male birds offer the best insect morsels to the female during courtship.



Barbary macaque

A 300-strong colony of Barbary macaques lives on the Rock of Gibraltar.



Eurasian brown bear

Found in Scandinavia and eastern Europe, these omnivores love berries and fresh fish.

Wolverine

Incredibly fierce, this predator hunts in the tundra and northern forests.

White-tailed eagle

Once almost extinct, this enormous bird now soars across northern Europe.

Eurasian otter

This web-footed otter catches fish in lakes, rivers, and ponds all over Europe.

European polecat

This hunter produces a stinky smell to defend its territory.

European bison

Hunted near to extinction in the 1920s, the bison has been reintroduced to the wild.

Red fox

Common across the European countryside, this opportunist now also thrives in cities.

Golden jackal

A hunter and scavenger, it has started to spread north and west from the Balkans.

European wild cat

Striped, bushy-tailed, and larger than domestic cats, this rare species lives in southern and central forests.

Wild boar

These large, bristly pigs are abundant in southern Europe.

Greater flamingo

Mudflats and coastal lagoons are home to these noisy, pink birds.

Common dolphin

These playful, sociable dolphins travel the Mediterranean in big groups.

Mediterranean monk seal

One of the world's most endangered sea mammals, this seal breeds in underwater caves.

Changing habitats

Many of the forests that once covered most of Europe have been replaced by farmland, towns and villages, and roads. Wild animals lost their habitats and were hunted, many to near extinction, but today some protected species, such as the grey wolf, are slowly spreading again.



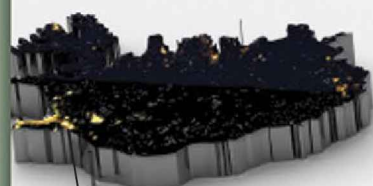
BIOMES

In the north, the wide tundra and dense boreal forests and taiga provide good shelter for hardy animals. The temperate forest and grasslands and dry, warm Mediterranean biomes of the rest of Europe make for great habitats for a variety of species, but many are threatened by the impact of human activity.

- Ice
- Tundra
- Boreal forest/Taiga
- Temperate broadleaf forest
- Temperate coniferous forest
- Temperate grassland
- Mediterranean
- Desert

By night

This satellite image of Europe at night shows where people live. The west of the continent is densely populated; the north and east are relatively uninhabited.



Iceland

Reykjavík is almost the only bright spot, and is home to two-thirds of the country's population.

Northwest England

The triangle formed by the cities of Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham is densely populated.



Urban Monaco

The small principality of Monaco, squeezed into an area of only 2 sq km (0.78 sq miles), is all city. Every one of its 30,581 inhabitants lives in an urban environment.

Lisbon
Just over one-quarter (26.2 per cent) of Portugal's 10.8 million inhabitants live in the metropolitan area of Lisbon.

Scandinavia

The relatively small populations of the large Scandinavian countries are concentrated in the main southern coastal cities.

Mega metropolitan area

Urban areas of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Germany's Rhine-Ruhr form a continuous built-up zone.

London

Europe's third-largest city has a population density of 5,518 people per sq km (14,290 per sq mile).

Paris

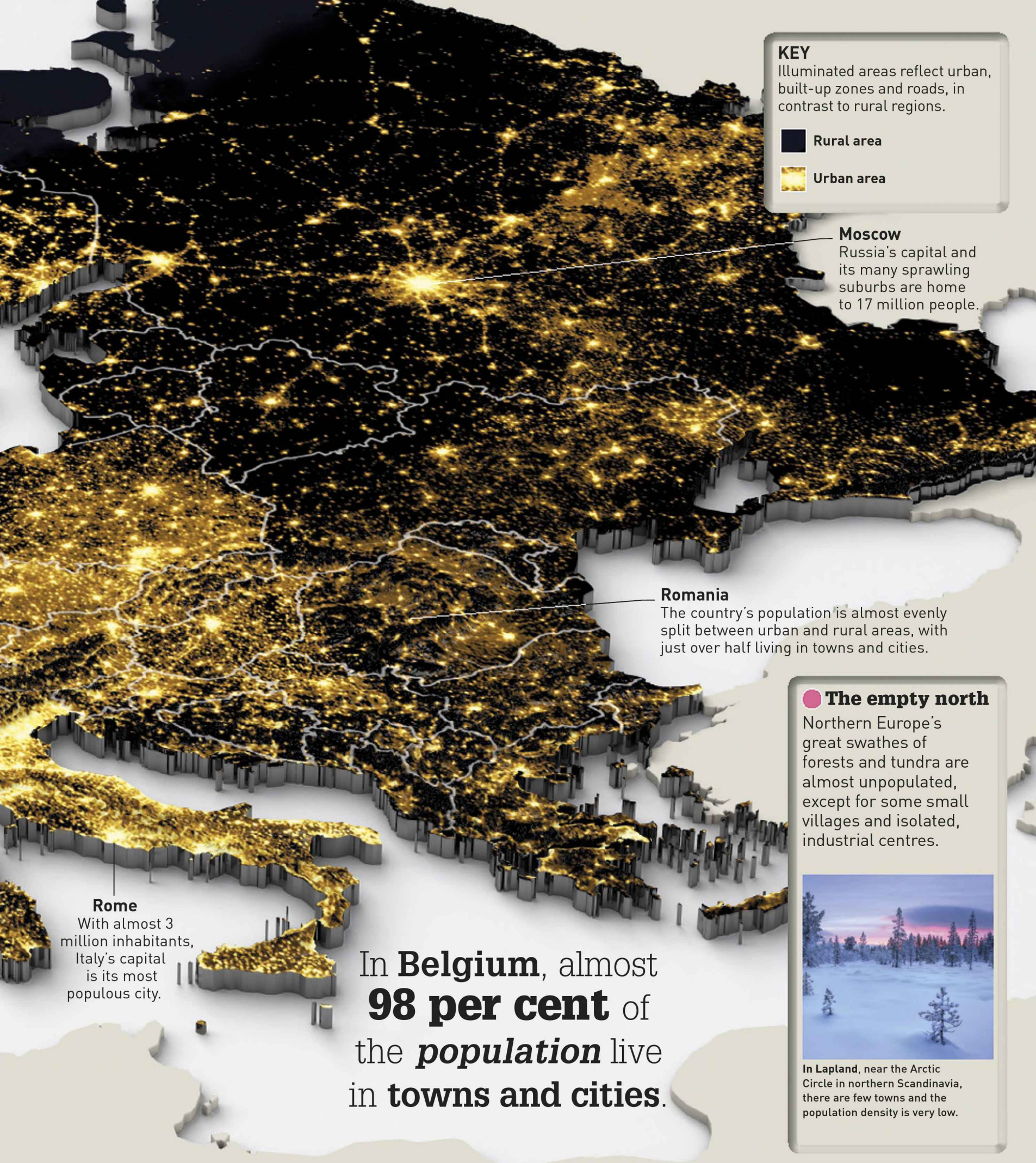
About 20 per cent of France's 62.8 million inhabitants live in the Paris metropolitan area.

Industrial hub

Milan and Turin, two of Italy's major industrial and economic centres, are home to a combined 6.57 million people.

Madrid

Madrid is Spain's largest metropolitan area and 6.3 million people live here.



KEY

Illuminated areas reflect urban, built-up zones and roads, in contrast to rural regions.



Rural area



Urban area

Moscow

Russia's capital and its many sprawling suburbs are home to 17 million people.

Romania

The country's population is almost evenly split between urban and rural areas, with just over half living in towns and cities.

Rome

With almost 3 million inhabitants, Italy's capital is its most populous city.

In **Belgium**, almost **98 per cent** of the *population* live in **towns and cities**.

● The empty north

Northern Europe's great swathes of forests and tundra are almost unpopulated, except for some small villages and isolated, industrial centres.



In Lapland, near the Arctic Circle in northern Scandinavia, there are few towns and the population density is very low.



A large satellite image of the Asian continent and surrounding oceans, viewed from space. The landmasses are green and brown, while the oceans are deep blue. The curvature of the Earth is visible at the top of the frame.

ASIA



Mighty continent

Asia extends from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Indian Ocean in the south, and from the Pacific Ocean in the east, to the Ural Mountains, the Suez Canal, the Bosphorus Strait, and the Caucasus Mountains in the west.



FAST FACTS

Total land area:

43,608,000 sq km
(16,837,143 sq miles)

Total population:

4.4 billion

Number of countries:

49

Largest country:

Russian Federation
– 17,098,242 sq km
(6,601,668 sq miles)

Smallest country:

Maldives – 298 sq km
(115 sq miles)

Largest country population:

China – 1.37 billion



Streets packed with people are a common sight in China's cities.

Countries and borders

The vast continent of Asia includes two giant nations – China and India, each with a population of more than a billion people and with rapidly growing economies. To the north is the world's biggest country by area – the Russian Federation. To the west lie the countries of the Middle East, today the centre of the Islamic world.

Indonesia
The world's largest island nation, Indonesia is made up of more than 13,000 islands.



**Dead Sea**

A salt lake bordering Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan. At 392 m (1,286 ft) below sea level, it is the lowest land point on Earth's surface.

Dead Sea
-392 m /
-1,286 ft

West Siberian Plain

One of the largest plains in the world, it is a vast system of marshes.

FAST FACTS**① Highest point:**

Mount Everest, Nepal/Tibet, China – 8,848 m (29,029 ft)

② Longest river:

Yangtze, China – 6,380 km (3,964 miles)

③ Largest lake:

Caspian Sea – 371,000 sq km (143,243 sq miles)

④ Largest island:

Borneo – 748,168 sq km (288,869 sq miles)



Borneo is the largest island in Asia, and the third-largest island in the world.

Landscape

Asia covers approximately 30 per cent of Earth's land area and makes up the eastern portion of the Eurasian supercontinent (with Europe lying to the west). It is made up of five different landscapes: mountain systems, plateaus, plains, steppes (large areas of unforested grassland), and deserts.

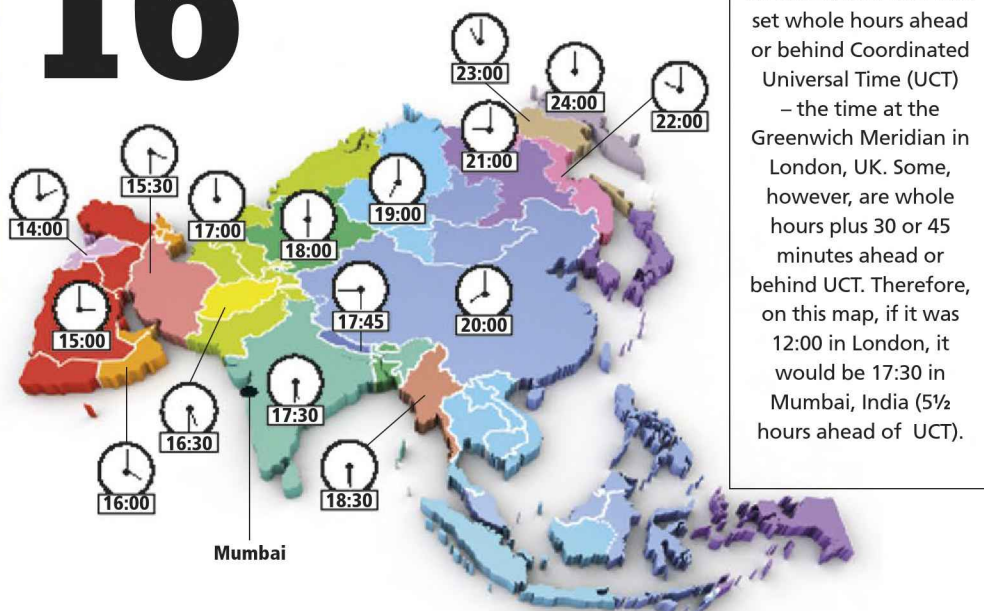
Indonesian islands

Indonesia is the most volcanic country in the world. It is home to 147 volcanoes, 76 of which are active.

Fascinating facts

Number of time zones

16



13 Landlocked countries

Afghanistan ■ Armenia ■ Azerbaijan ■ Belarus ■ Bhutan ■ Kazakhstan ■ Kyrgyzstan ■ Laos ■ Mongolia ■ Nepal ■ Tajikistan ■ Turkmenistan ■ Uzbekistan

Fastest train

Shanghai Maglev Train, China – **430 km/h (267.2 mph)**



Longest tunnels



Railway tunnel

Seikan Tunnel,
Tsugaru Strait, Japan
– 53.85 km (33.5 miles)



Metro line

Guangzhou Metro Line 3,
Guangzhou, China –
60.4 km (37.5 miles)



Road tunnel

Xishan Tunnel,
Shanxi, China –
13.65 km (8.5 miles)

Burj Khalifa
Dubai, UAE
828 m (2,715 ft)



Longest coastline Indonesia – **54,716 km (33,999 miles)**



Busiest airport Beijing International Airport, China – **90.203 million passengers per year**

Tallest buildings



Shanghai Tower
Shanghai, China
632 m (2,073 ft)



Makkah Royal Clock Tower
Mecca, Saudi Arabia
601 m (1,971 ft)



Taipei 101
Taipei, Taiwan
509 m (1,670 ft)

Shanghai World Finance Centre
Shanghai, China
492 m (1,614 ft)

Biggest glacier

Fedchenko Glacier,

Tajikistan –
77 km (48 miles) long
The Fedchenko Glacier is the longest glacier in the world outside of the polar regions



WATERFALLS

Highest:

Hannoki Falls, Toyama, Japan – 500 m (1,640 ft)

Largest (by volume):

Chutes de Khone, Laos – 11,610 m³ (410,000 ft³) of water per second

Deepest lake

Lake Baikal,

Russian Federation –

1,642 m (5,387 ft)

Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world

Most active volcano

Mount Merapi, Indonesia



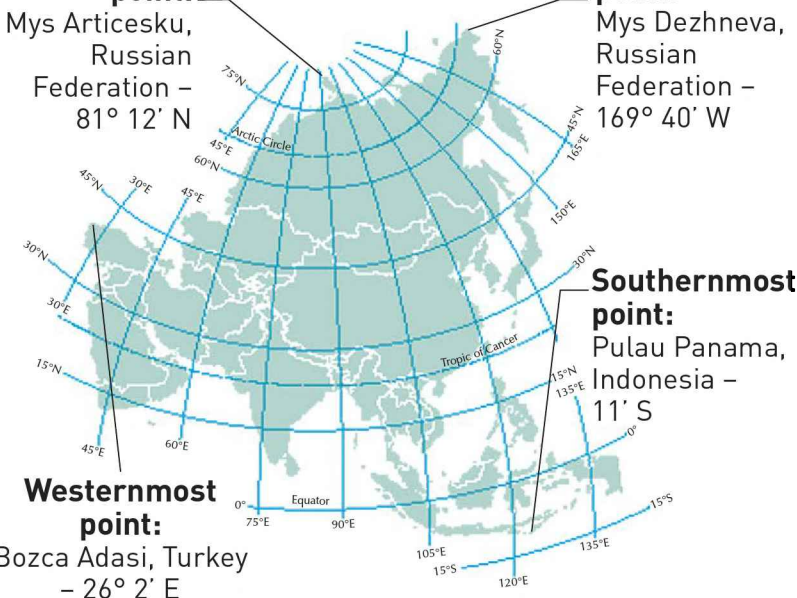
Asia's extreme points

Northernmost point:

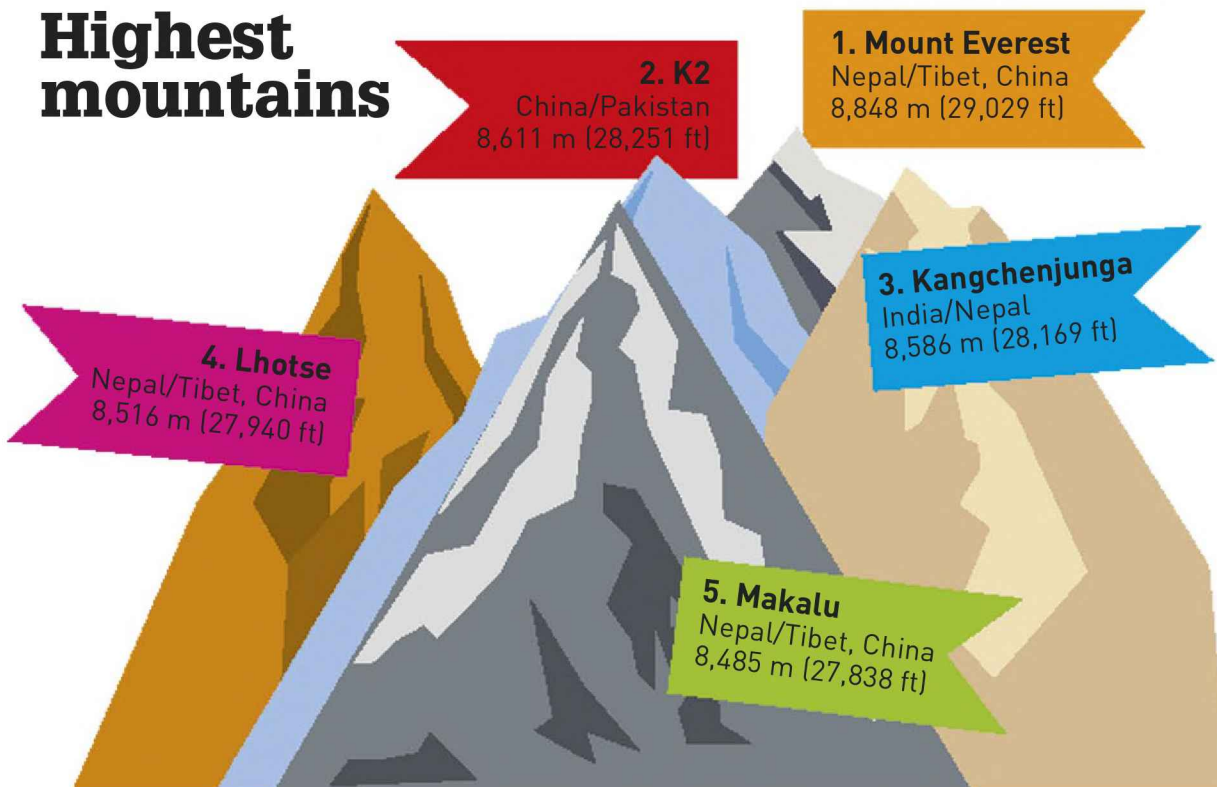
Mys Articesku, Russian Federation – 81° 12' N

Easternmost point:

Mys Dezhneva, Russian Federation – 169° 40' W



Highest mountains



Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

Bangkok, Thailand
18.24 million

Singapore
11.88 million

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
11.12 million

Seoul, South Korea
10.35 million

Hong Kong
8.66 million

Highest bridge

Sidu River Bridge, Yesanguan Township, Badong County, Hubei, China – **496 m (1,627 ft)**

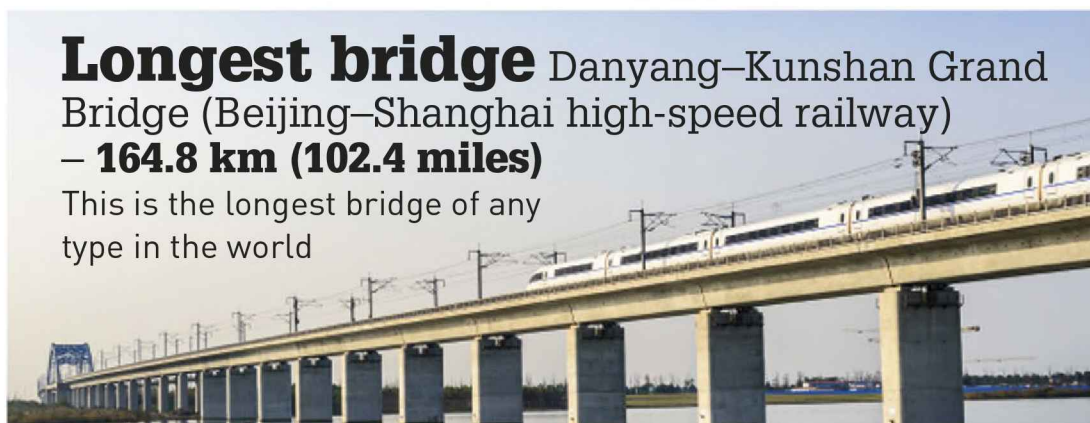
The world's three highest bridges are all in Asia:

- Sidu River Bridge – 496 m (1,627 ft)
- Puli Bridge – 485 m (1,591 ft)
- Qingshui River Bridge – 406 m (1,332 ft)

Longest bridge

Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge (Beijing–Shanghai high-speed railway) – **164.8 km (102.4 miles)**

This is the longest bridge of any type in the world



Bahrain

Bahrain has a population of 1.3 million, but projections suggest that figure will double in 10 years – the fastest growth rate of any Asian country.

Turkey

Turkey is the most populous country in the Middle East, with a population of 80.3 million.

Asia's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Shanghai, China – 24.3 million | 8 Mumbai, India – 12.4 million |
| 2 Karachi, Pakistan – 23.5 million | 9 Shenzhen, China – 10.5 million |
| 3 Beijing, China – 21.5 million | 10 Jakarta, Indonesia – 10.1 million |
| 4 Delhi, India – 16.4 million | |
| 5 Tianjin, China – 15.2 million | |
| 6 Tokyo, Japan – 13.5 million | |
| 7 Guangzhou, China – 13.1 million | |



The bright lights and busy streets of Tokyo – Japan's largest city.

Bangladesh

Of all the countries in the world with a population of over 100 million, Bangladesh has the highest population density – 1,138 people per sq km (2,948 per sq mile).

India

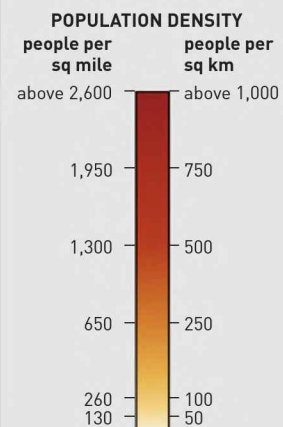
India has the world's second-largest population (1.27 billion), but is expected to be the world's most-populous country by 2028.

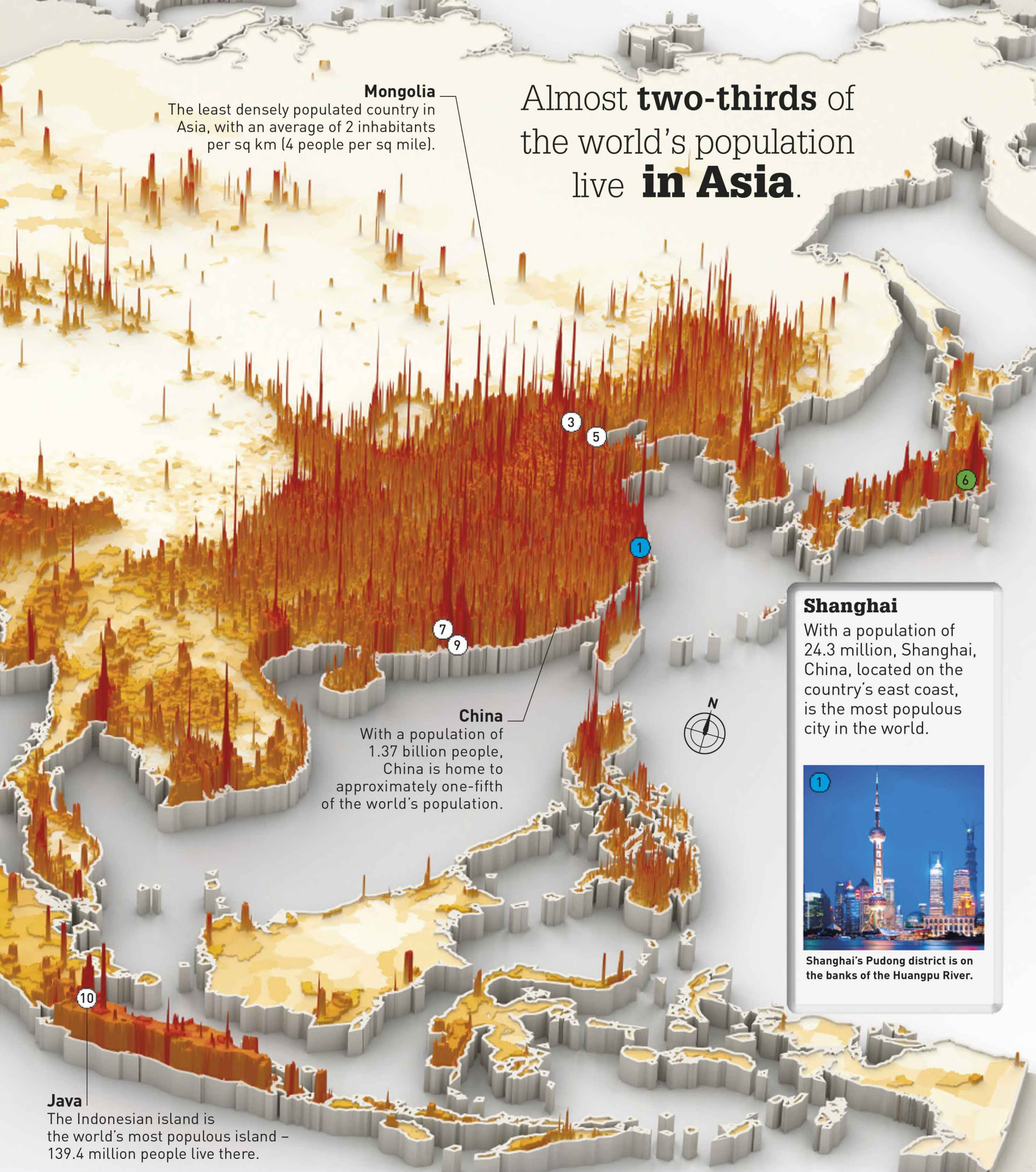
Population

Asia contains some of the most populous regions on Earth. The plains of eastern China, the Ganges-Brahmaputra rivers in India, Japan, and the Indonesian island of Jakarta all have very high population densities. By contrast, Siberia and the Plateau of Tibet are virtually uninhabited.

KEY

The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.





Mongolia

The least densely populated country in Asia, with an average of 2 inhabitants per sq km (4 people per sq mile).

Almost **two-thirds** of the world's population live **in Asia**.

China

With a population of 1.37 billion people, China is home to approximately one-fifth of the world's population.

Shanghai

With a population of 24.3 million, Shanghai, China, located on the country's east coast, is the most populous city in the world.



Shanghai's Pudong district is on the banks of the Huangpu River.

Java

The Indonesian island is the world's most populous island – 139.4 million people live there.

Karakoram Range

This vast mountain range lies to the west of the Himalayas and contains the highest concentration of peaks over 8,000 m (26,247 ft) on Earth.

**Mount Everest**

Situated on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China, Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain at 8,848 m (29,029 ft).

**Kathmandu**

The capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu has a population of 1.18 million and is a gateway for tourism in the Himalayas.

**Taklamakan Desert**

A lifeless, sand-shifting desert, the famed Silk Road passed along its northern and southern fringes.

Tarim He

Tarim Basin

Shamo

Altun

Qingzang
(Plateau of)

Delhi

Lucknow

Patna

Bhutan

The small Himalayan kingdom only opened its borders to foreigners in 1974.

Brahmaputra

BANGLADESH

Dhaka

Bay of Bengal

KYRGYZSTAN

TAJIKISTAN

Hindu Kush

Karakoram Range

Kunlun Shan

Gangdisê Shan

Siwalik Range

NEPAL

INDIA

MALAYA

BHUTAN

**The Ganges**

The Ganges is the most sacred river of the Hindu religion. It rises in the Himalayas, and flows through India and Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal.

**Thimphu**

At 2,648 m (8,688 ft), Thimphu, in Bhutan, is the third-highest capital city in the world, after La Paz (Bolivia) and Quito (Ecuador).



The Himalayas

The Himalayas is the world's highest mountain range. It runs in an arc 2,400 km (1,500 miles) long, spread across five countries: Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China. It is also the source of some of the region's major rivers, including the mighty Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers.



Plateau of Tibet

The world's largest and highest plateau, it contains the largest amount of ice found outside the poles.

Shan

Gaoyuan
(Tibet)

Siling Co

Lhasa

Qaidam Pendi

Qilian Shan

C H I N A

Nyainqêntanglha Shan



Tsangpo Gorge

With an average depth of 5,000 m (16,400 ft), Tsangpo Gorge, in Tibet, China, is the deepest canyon in the world.

HIGHEST PEAKS

The Himalayas is home to more than 110 mountains over 7,300 m (24,000 ft). The top five are:

- Mount Everest 8,848 m (29,029 ft)
- Kangchenjunga 8,586 m (28,169 ft)
- Lhotse 8,516 m (27,940 ft)
- Makalu 8,462 m (27,765 ft)
- Cho Oyu 8,201 m (26,905 ft)

Brahmaputra River

One of Asia's major rivers, it cuts through China, Bhutan, India, and Bangladesh before flowing into the Bay of Bengal.



Makkah Royal Clock Tower

The tower contains the world's largest clock face.

Dome of the Rock,
Jerusalem, Israel

Ziggurat of Ur,
Nasiriyah, Iraq

Makkah Royal Clock Tower,
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Great Mosque of Sana'a,
Yemen

Burj Khalifa,
Dubai, UAE

Dome of the Rock

The world's oldest-standing Islamic monument, it dates to the seventh century CE.

Fortress of Nisa

The fortress forms part of an ancient city that was totally destroyed by an earthquake in the first decade BCE.

Fortress of Nisa,
Turkmenistan

Citadel of Herat,
Afghanistan

Persepolis,
Marvdasht, Iran

Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasui,
Turkestan, Kazakhstan

Shah-i-Zinda Mausoleum
Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Badshahi Mosque,
Lahore, Pakistan

Potala Palace,
Lhasa, Tibet, China

Bagan,
Myanmar

Taj Mahal,
Agra, India

Meenakshi Amman Temple,
Madurai, India

Meenakshi Amman Temple

This Hindu temple lies at the heart of the ancient Indian city of Madurai.

Taj Mahal
The white-marble mausoleum (a building that covers a burial chamber) attracts 8 million visitors a year.

Petronas Towers

At 452 m (1,483 ft), they are the world's tallest twin towers.

Burj Khalifa

Standing at 828 m (2,715 ft), the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, UAE, is the tallest manmade structure in the world. Completed in 2009, it has 163 floors (including the world's highest observation deck on the 148th floor), 57 elevators, and eight escalators.



Famous landmarks

Asia is a continent of huge contrasts. It was the birthplace of some of the earliest human civilizations, has been a hub for many of the world's great religions, such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, and, today, is the site of some of the world's most amazing modern architecture.

KEY

○ Landmark location



Church of St Nicholas,
Omsk, Russia

Mogao Caves

Situated on the ancient Silk Road, the site's 492 caves are famous for their statues and wall paintings.



Mogao Caves,
Duanhang,
China



Genghis Khan Statue,
Erdene, Mongolia

Lena Pillars Nature Park,
Siberia, Russia

The Great Wall
(Jinshanling section),
near Beijing, China

Lena Pillars Nature Park

Spectacular rock pillars rise from the River Lena to reach a height of 100 m (330 ft).



Volcanoes of
Kamchatka,
Russia



Leshan Giant Buddha,
Mount Emei, China



Terracotta Army,
Xian, China



Forbidden City,
Beijing, China

Shanghai Tower,
Shanghai, China



Gyeongbokgung Palace,
Seoul, South Korea



Imperial Palace,
Tokyo, Japan

International
Commerce Centre,
Hong Kong



Ayutthaya,
Thailand



My Son
Sanctuary,
Quang Nam,
Vietnam

Terracotta Army

A collection of 8,000 figures that depict the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China.

Paoay Church,
Ilocos Norte,
Philippines

Banaue Rice
Terraces,
Ifugao,
Philippines



Petronas Towers,
Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia



Angkor Wat,
Cambodia

Angkor Wat

Built in the 12th century, it is the world's largest religious monument.



Kampong Ayer,
Bandar Seri Begawan,
Brunei



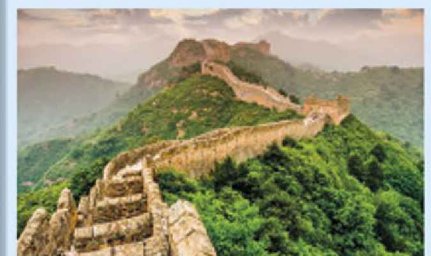
Borobudur

The world's largest Buddhist temple, it dates to the ninth century BCE.

Komodo National Park,
Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia

Great Wall of China

Built over the course of 2,000 years, the Great Wall of China is a series of non-continuous walls built as protection from raiders and invaders. Its many branches add up to a length of 21,196 km (13,170 miles).



Driest

Aden, in Yemen, is Asia's driest location. It receives an average of 45.7 mm (1.8 in) of rain annually.

Hottest

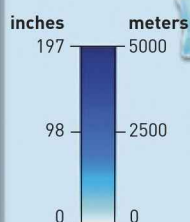
The hottest temperature ever recorded in Asia was 53.9°C (129°F), at Tirat Zvi, Israel, on 21 June 1942.

Siberian winds

Cold, dry air sweeps west from Siberia, and can affect weather patterns as far west as Italy, in Europe.

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION

Annual precipitation (snow and rain) varies dramatically throughout Asia. The wettest areas are in the tropical south, with some locations receiving more than 2,000 mm (80 in) of precipitation per year. North Asia, although significantly colder than the south, is much drier, and the deserts of Arabia receive virtually no rainfall throughout the year.



Climate

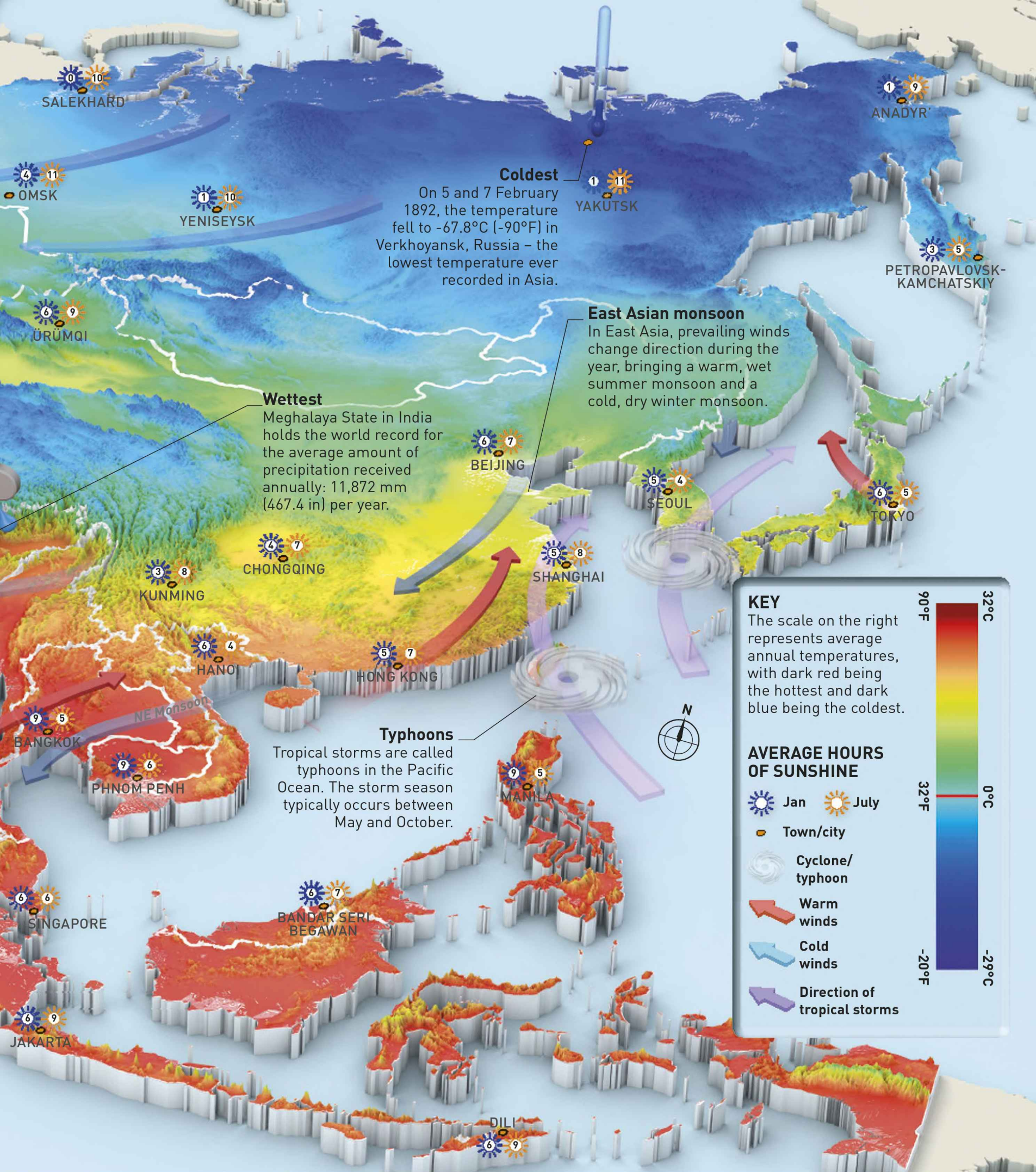
Because of its enormous size, the climate in Asia varies dramatically, from the polar cold of the north, to the dry, desert environments of the southwest and centre, and the hot, humid conditions of the tropical south. The continent is home to some of the coldest, hottest, driest, and wettest places on Earth.

Monsoon winds

A monsoon is a seasonal change in the direction of the prevailing winds. In India, the change brings rain in the summer, and dry, cold winds in winter.

Cyclones

Tropical storms, known as cyclones in the Indian Ocean, form in the Bay of Bengal before sweeping northwards over land, sometimes with catastrophic results.



Dromedary camel

This single-humped camel can travel up to 160 km (100 miles) a day in the desert without water.

Iranian wolf

Lives in a variety of habitats, from arid deserts to lush forests.

Snow leopard

A large cat that can live at altitudes of up to 4,500 m (14,800 ft). Also known as an "ounce".

Siberian musk deer

During the breeding season, males grow fangs instead of antlers.

Arabian leopard

An opportunistic hunter that lives in mountainous areas.

Bactrian camel

A two-humped camel native to the steppes of Central Asia.

Tibetan fox

A small fox, it is only found on the Plateau of Tibet.

Water buffalo

First domesticated in India 5,000 years ago, it is widespread throughout South Asia.

Bengal tiger

A powerful, nocturnal hunter that preys on large mammals.

BIOMES

The vast continent of Asia is home to virtually every habitat on Earth.

- Ice
- Tundra
- Boreal forest/Taiga
- Temperate coniferous forest
- Temperate broadleaf forest
- Temperate grassland
- Tropical coniferous forest
- Tropical broadleaf forest
- Tropical dry broadleaf forest
- Tropical/sub-tropical grassland
- Mountain
- Desert
- Mangrove

Asian elephant

Slightly smaller than its African counterpart, it is identified by its smaller, rounder ears.

Asian golden cat

An elusive forest predator that preys on small mammals and birds.

Gharial

One of the longest of all living crocodilians, measuring up to 6.25 m (20.5 ft) in length.

Siamang

The largest of the gibbons, it has a throat pouch that can be inflated to the size of its head.

Sumatran rhinoceros

The smallest of the rhinoceroses, it is one of the world's most endangered species.

Wildlife

From east to west, the continent of Asia stretches almost halfway round the world. As such, it contains a vast array of habitats, from Arctic tundra and high, cold plateaus, to barren deserts and damp, lush rainforests. The continent's array of wildlife is as vast and varied as the landscape itself.



Arctic fox

An incredibly hardy animal that is common throughout the Arctic region.

Baikal seal

Only found in Lake Baikal, Siberia, it is the only true seal that lives exclusively in freshwater.

Polar bear

The largest land carnivore in the world, it is only found in the Arctic.

Steller's sea eagle

Weighing up to 9 kg (20 lb), it is the heaviest eagle in the world.

Giant panda

The rarest member of the bear family, 99 per cent of its diet is bamboo.

Siberian tiger

The largest of the tiger species, it can grow up to 4 m (13 ft) in length.

Yak

Similar to the American bison, it is adapted to living at altitude.

Japanese macaque

The world's most northern-living primate, it is also known as the "snow monkey".

King cobra

Reaching lengths of up to 5.5 m (18 ft), it is the world's longest venomous snake.

Dhole

A highly social animal well known for its vocal calls.

Clouded leopard

Named for the distinctive clouded spots on its coat, it is an excellent climber.

Proboscis monkey

Its large, fleshy nose is used to attract mates.

Bornean orangutan

The most intelligent of the primates, its name translates as "man of the forest".

Philippine crocodile

A freshwater crocodile, it has a broad snout and thick, bony plates on its body.

Komodo dragon

The world's largest lizard, it can consume 80 per cent of its bodyweight in a single meal.

Deforestation

The world's third-largest area of tropical rainforest lies in Southeast Asia, but the region is experiencing deforestation at a faster rate than anywhere else on Earth. This has a devastating effect on both the region's wildlife and the global climate.



Borneo – 56 per cent of the island's forests were cut down between 1985 and 2001.

KEY

Illuminated areas on the map reflect urban, built-up areas and roads, in contrast to rural regions.

**Trans-Siberian Railway**

Bright lights mark a dotted line across Siberia, showing the route of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Arabian Peninsula

A large portion of the Arabian Peninsula is an area of desert known as the "Empty Quarter".

Oman

This country had the fastest rate of urbanization in Asia over the past five years (8.54 per cent).

Hong Kong

Hong Kong has a population of 7.35 million, making it the 21st largest city in Asia, but the city is the fourth most densely populated territory on Earth, with a staggering 6,682 inhabitants per sq km (17,294 per sq mile).

**Indus Valley**

This river valley in northern Pakistan is home to some of the country's largest cities, including Lahore and Islamabad.

India

Home to 1.27 billion people, but only 32.7 per cent of the population live in towns or cities.

Bangkok

Almost one-sixth of Thailand's 68.2 million people live in or around the country's capital, Bangkok.

Singapore

One of three territories in Asia – along with Hong Kong and Macau – in which the entire population live in an urban environment.

By night

This satellite image of Asia at night shows how the continent's huge population is concentrated in small pockets of land. India, northern China, the southern Korean peninsula, and Japan are densely populated, whereas Siberia and Central Asia are virtually empty.





AUSTRALASIA & OCEANIA



Australasia & Oceania from space

Vast deserts dominate the interior of Australia, contrasting with the fertile southeast. To the north, dense forest covers much of New Guinea, while in the far south, the snowy peaks of New Zealand's mountains stand out clearly.

PACIFIC OCEAN

KEY

● Capital city

● Major city

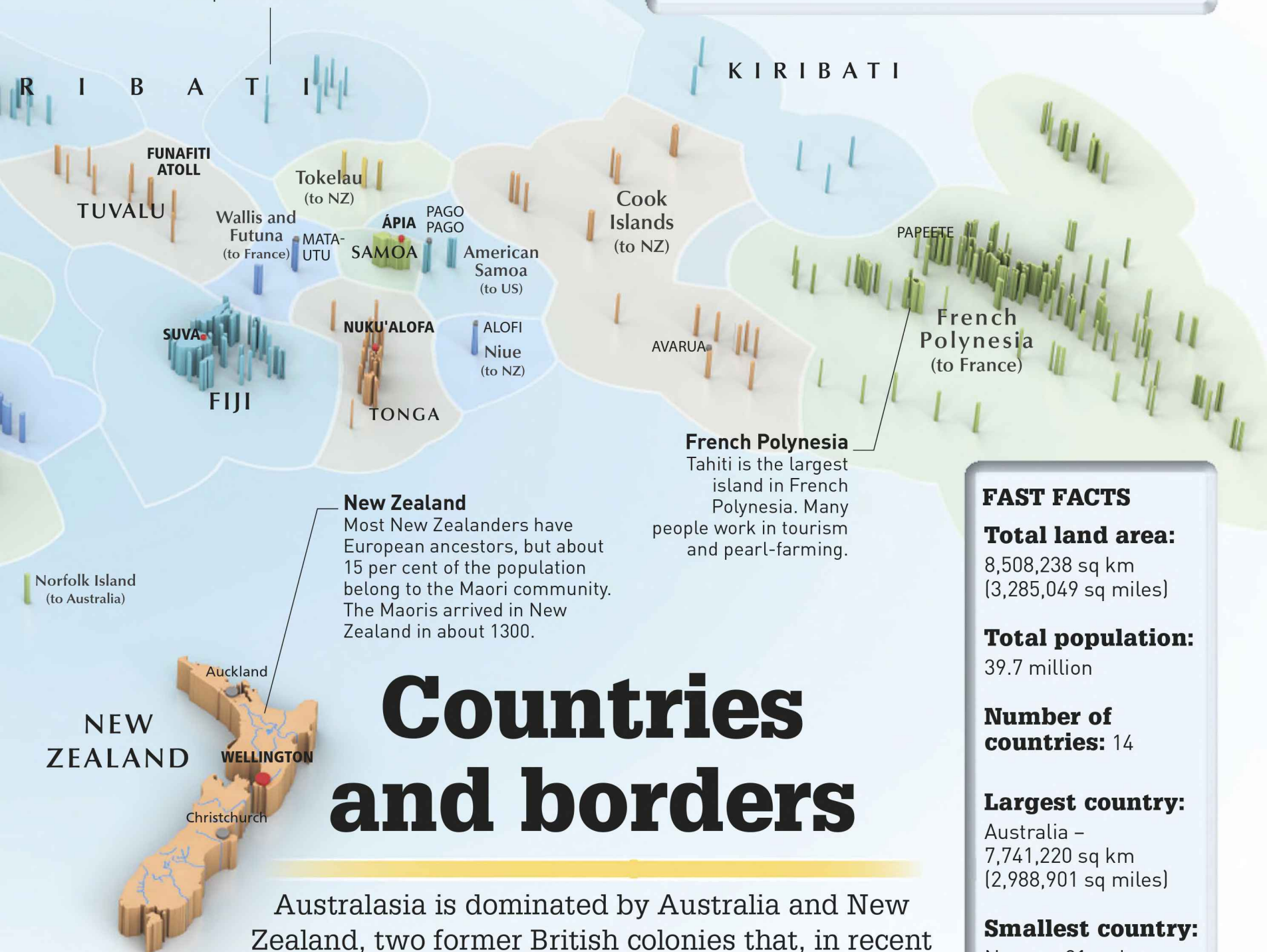


Kiribati

This group of 33 tiny islands is spread over a vast area of the Pacific Ocean. Kiribati was a British colony from 1915 until it gained its independence in 1979.

Nauru

The Republic of Nauru is the world's smallest island nation, with a total area of 21 sq km (8 sq miles) and a population of just 9,591. The oval-shaped island is surrounded by sandy beaches and a coral reef.



New Zealand

Most New Zealanders have European ancestors, but about 15 per cent of the population belong to the Maori community. The Maoris arrived in New Zealand in about 1300.

French Polynesia

Tahiti is the largest island in French Polynesia. Many people work in tourism and pearl-farming.

Countries and borders

Australasia is dominated by Australia and New Zealand, two former British colonies that, in recent years, have built new relations with other Pacific nations, such as Japan. Oceania includes the many islands of the Pacific Ocean, whose communities rely increasingly on tourism.

FAST FACTS

Total land area:

8,508,238 sq km
(3,285,049 sq miles)

Total population:

39.7 million

Number of countries:

14

Largest country:

Australia –
7,741,220 sq km
(2,988,901 sq miles)

Smallest country:

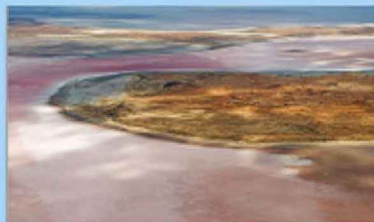
Nauru – 21 sq km
(8.1 sq miles)

Largest country population:

Australia – 22.9 million

③ Lake Eyre

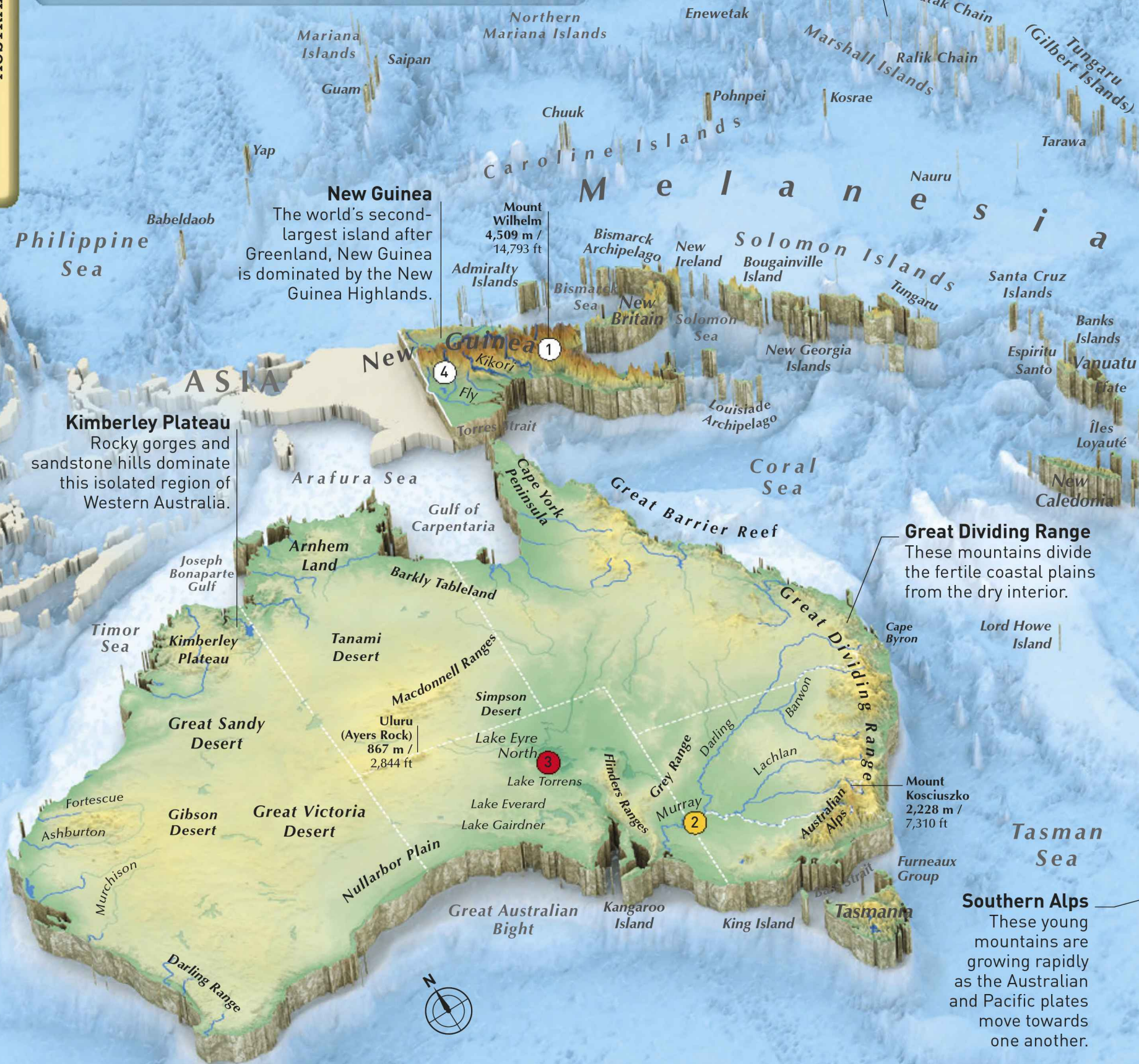
With an area of 9,583 sq km (3,700 sq miles), Lake Eyre is the largest lake in Australasia and Oceania. During the dry season, much of the lake evaporates, leaving behind a thick salt crust.



Lake Eyre sometimes turns pink because of a type of algae in the water.

Marshall Islands

A group of 34 scattered atolls (low-lying islands made of coral reefs) in the Pacific Ocean. The average height of each island is only 2 m (6.6 ft) above sea level.



FAST FACTS

1 Highest point:
Mount Wilhelm, Papua
New Guinea – 4,509 m
(14,793 ft)

2 Longest river:
Murray-Darling,
Australia – 3,750 km
(2,330 miles)

3 Largest lake:
Lake Eyre, Australia –
9,583 sq km
(3,700 sq miles)

4 Largest island:
New Guinea –
808,000 sq km
(312,000 sq miles)



The Murray-Darling river system is long and slow-flowing.

Micronesia

Micronesia is a state of more than 600 islands, many of which are atolls.

Fiji

A volcanic archipelago consisting of two main islands and 880 smaller islands.

North Island

Most of New Zealand's active volcanoes are found on the North Island.

Landscape

The Australian landscape is dominated by ancient mountain ranges and unusual rock formations. New Zealand is a land of earthquakes, volcanoes, and geysers. Oceania is made up of approximately 10,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean.

KEY

The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.

ELEVATION

Feet	Metres
above 26,247	above 8,000
22,965	7,000
19,685	6,000
16,404	5,000
13,123	4,000
9,842	3,000
6,560	2,000
3,280	1,000
Sea level 0	0 Sea level

Fascinating facts

COUNTRY WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS



Papua New Guinea
1 – Indonesia

LONGEST TUNNELS



Railway tunnel

Kaimai Tunnel, North Island, New Zealand
– 8.85 km (5.5 miles)



Road tunnel

Airport Link, Brisbane, Australia – 6.7 km (4.16 miles)

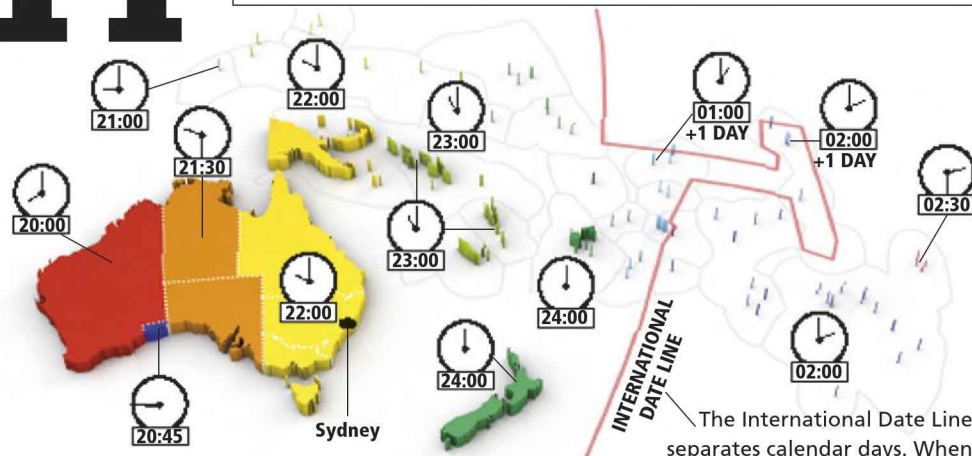
Number of time zones

11



12:00

The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 22:00 in Sydney, Australia (10 hours ahead of UCT).



The International Date Line separates calendar days. When you cross it from west to east, you move ahead one day.

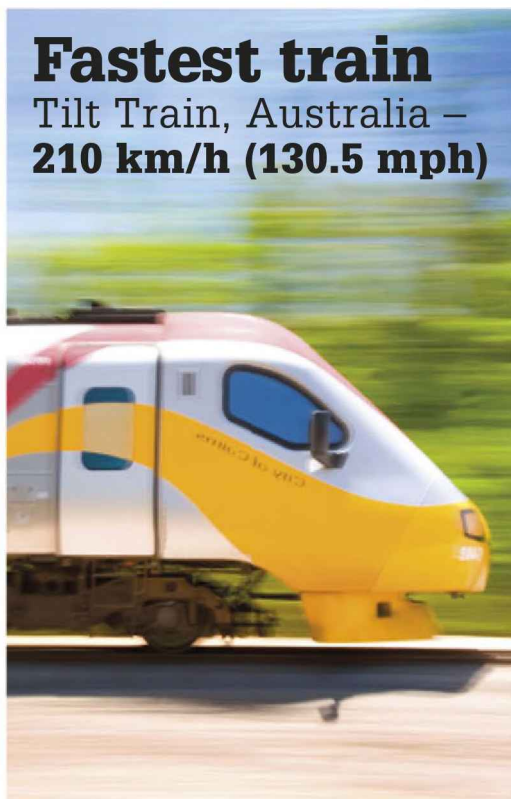


Longest coastline

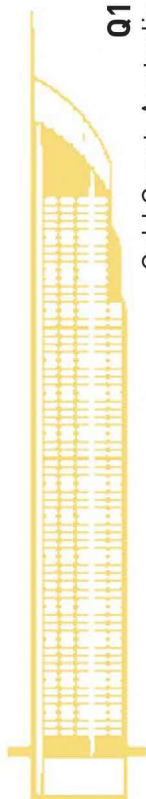
Australia – 25,760 km (16,006.5 miles)

Fastest train

Tilt Train, Australia – 210 km/h (130.5 mph)



Q1
Gold Coast, Australia
323 m (1,060 ft)

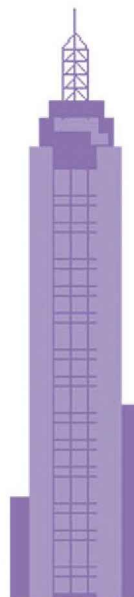


Tallest buildings

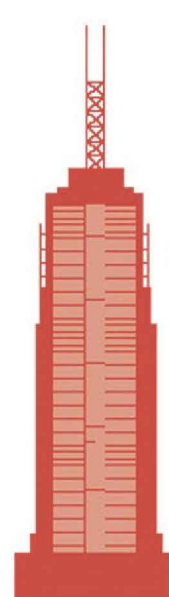
Eureka Tower
Melbourne, Australia
297 m (974 ft)



120 Collins Street
Melbourne, Australia
265 m (869 ft)



101 Collins Street
Melbourne, Australia
260 m (853 ft)



Prima Pearl
Melbourne, Australia
254 m (833 ft)



Busiest airport Sydney Airport, Sydney, Australia – **39.7 million passengers per year**

BRIDGES

Longest bridge:

Macleay River Bridge, Australia – **3.2 km (2 miles)**

Highest bridge: Mohaka Viaduct, Raupunga, New Zealand – **95 m (312 ft)**



WATERFALLS

Highest: **Browne**

Falls, New Zealand – 836 m (2,744 ft)

Largest (by volume):

Huka Falls, Taupo, New Zealand – 220 m³ (7,769 ft³) of water per second

LAKES

Largest lake: Lake Eyre, Australia – **9,583 sq km (3,700 sq miles)**

Deepest lake: Lake Hauroko, New Zealand – **462 m (1,516 ft)**



Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

Sydney, Australia
2.853 million

Melbourne, Australia
2.166 million

Auckland, NZ
1.965 million

Christchurch, NZ
1.732 million

Brisbane, Australia
1.066 million

Highest mountains



HIGHEST VOLCANO

Mount Giluwe, Papua New Guinea – **4,368 m (14,331 ft)**

Northernmost point:

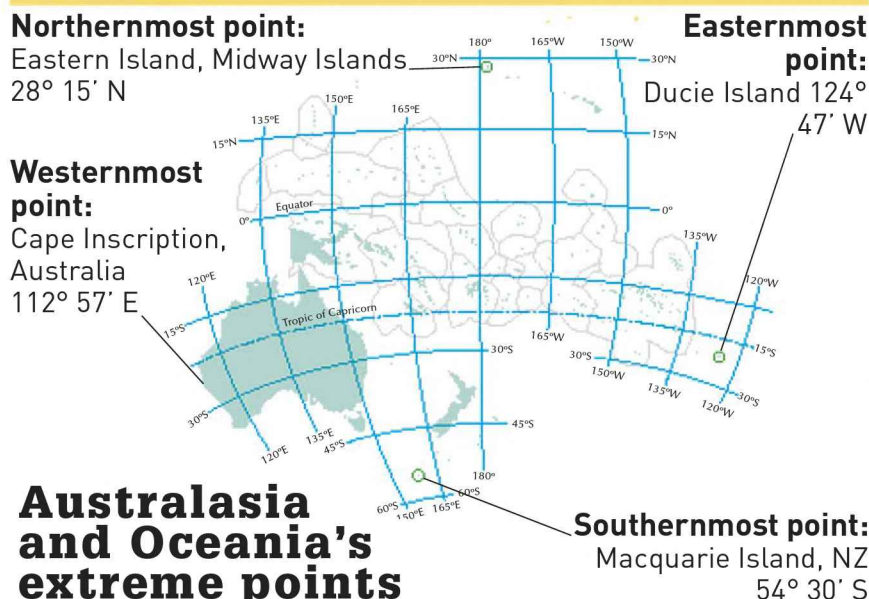
Eastern Island, Midway Islands
28° 15' N

Westernmost point:

Cape Inscription, Australia
112° 57' E

Easternmost point:

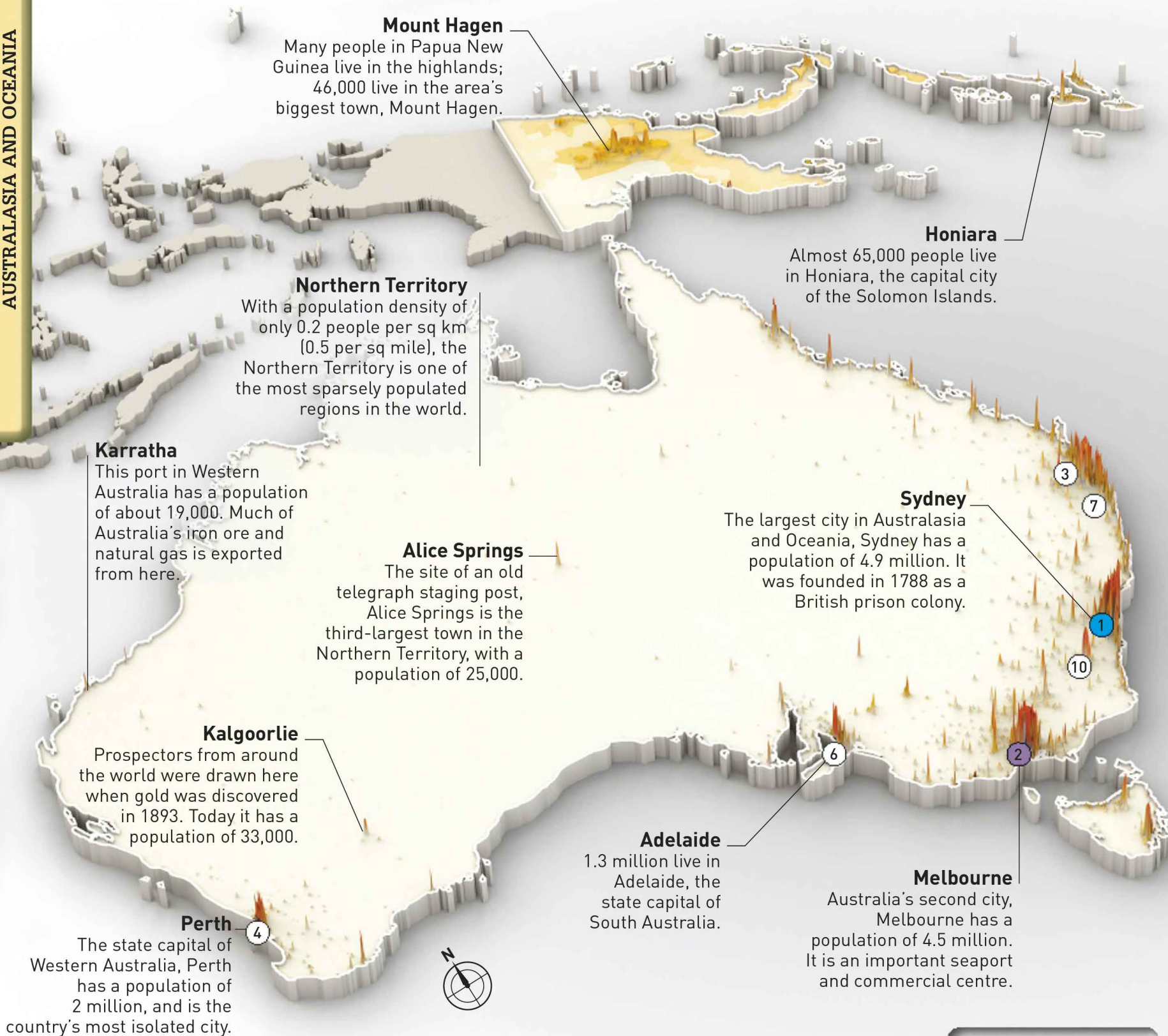
Ducie Island 124° 47' W



BIGGEST GLACIER

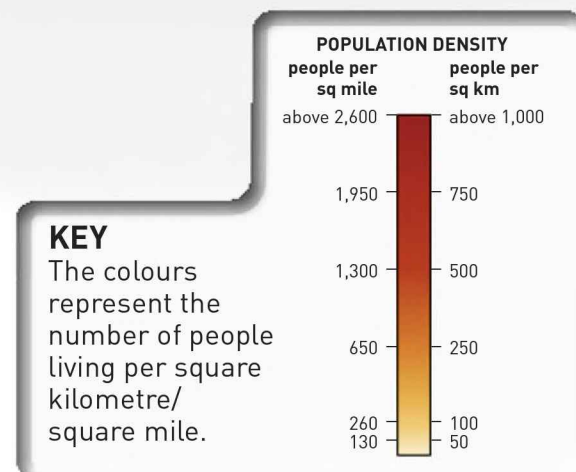
Tasman Glacier, New Zealand – **27 km (17 miles) long, with an area of 101 sq km (39 sq miles)**

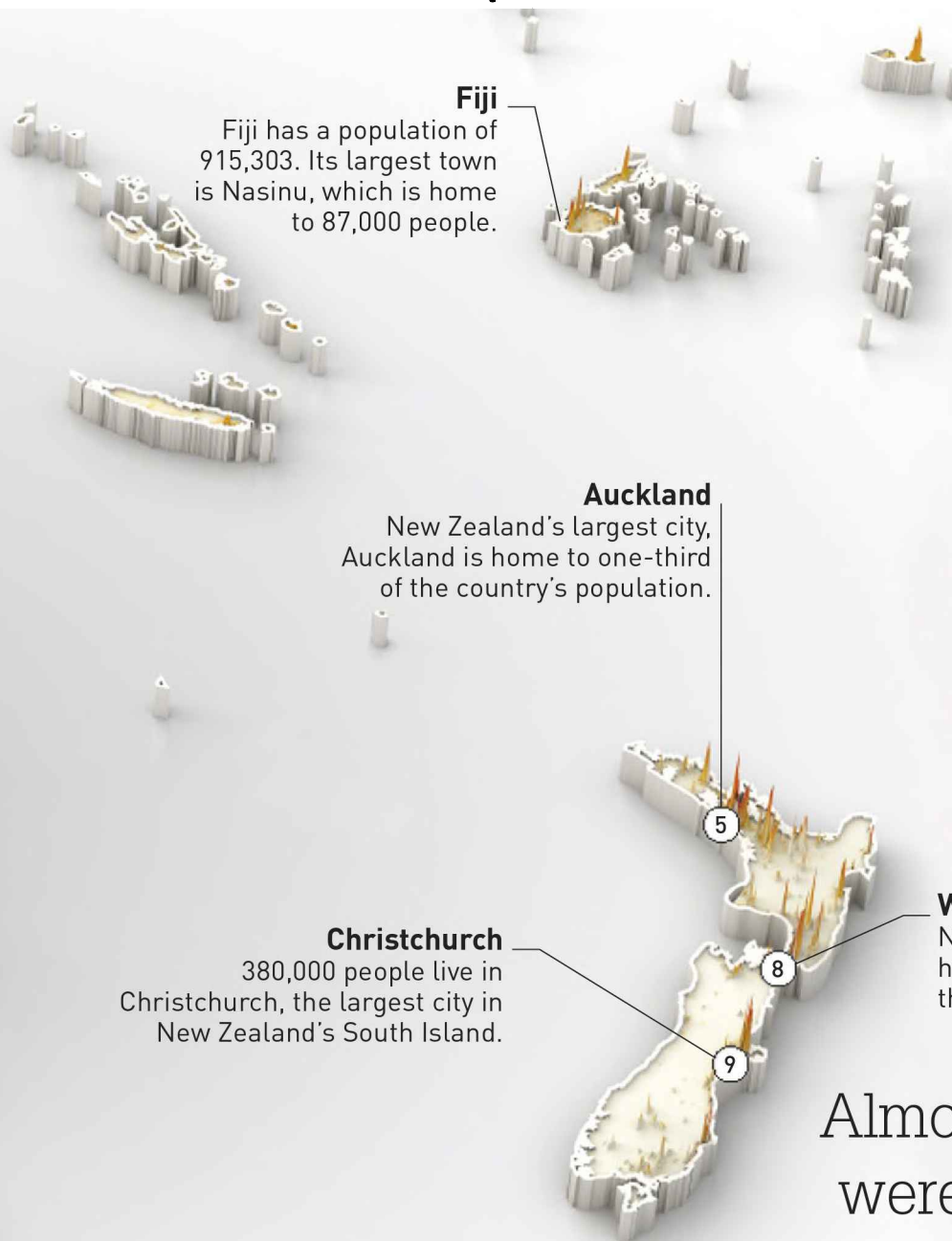




Population

Australia's population is concentrated in the major cities of the south east, with very few people living in the continent's centre. In New Zealand, most people live in cities on the North Island, while the mountainous South Island is less populated.





Australasia and Oceania's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

- ① Sydney, Australia – 4.9 million
- ② Melbourne, Australia – 4.5 million
- ③ Brisbane, Australia – 2.3 million
- ④ Perth, Australia – 2 million
- ⑤ Auckland, New Zealand – 1.4 million
- ⑥ Adelaide, Australia – 1.3 million

- ⑦ Gold Coast, Australia – 530,000
- ⑧ Wellington, New Zealand – 400,000
- ⑨ Christchurch, New Zealand – 389,000
- ⑩ Canberra, Australia – 380,000



Melbourne is the capital city of the Australian state of Victoria.

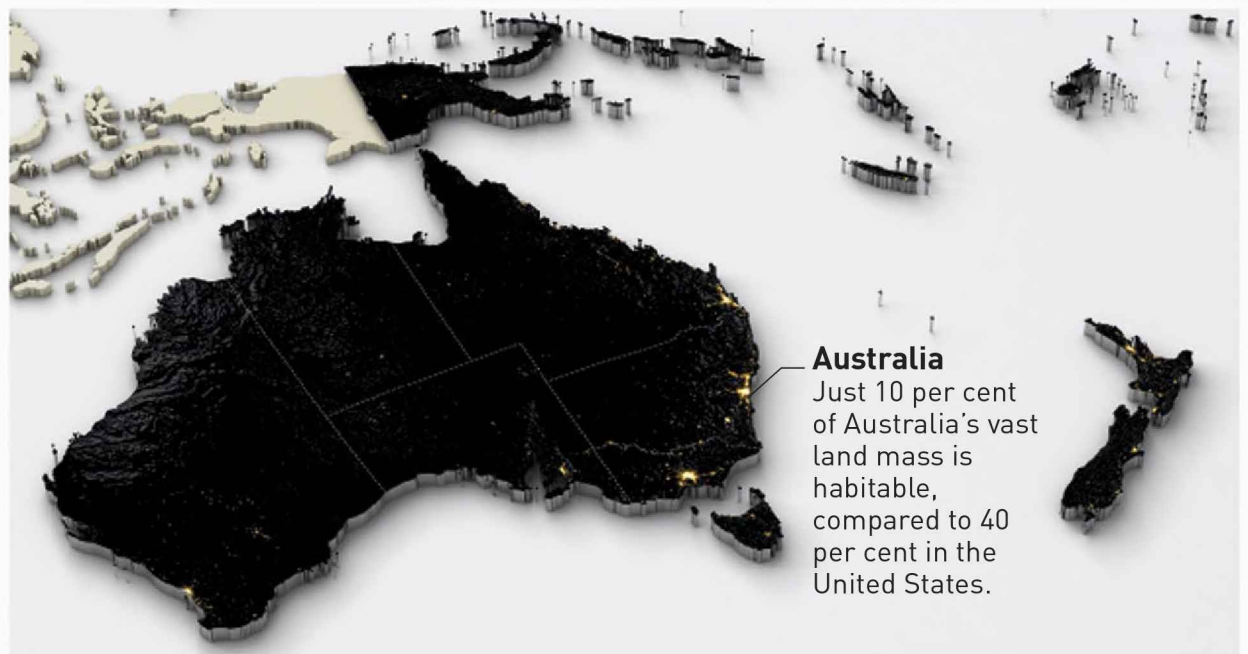
Almost **one in three** Australians were born **outside** the country.

BY NIGHT

The brightly lit cities of southeastern Australia shine brightly, and Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane are easy to spot. In contrast, the country's interior is shrouded in darkness. Auckland and Wellington are two of the bright points on New Zealand's North Island, with only Christchurch standing out on South Island.

KEY

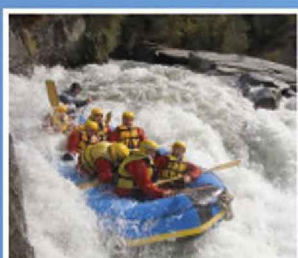
- Rural area
- Urban area



New Zealand



Almost one-third of New Zealand has been set aside as protected national park. Among its incredible range of landscapes are the towering peaks of the Southern Alps, and the geysers and hot springs of North Island.



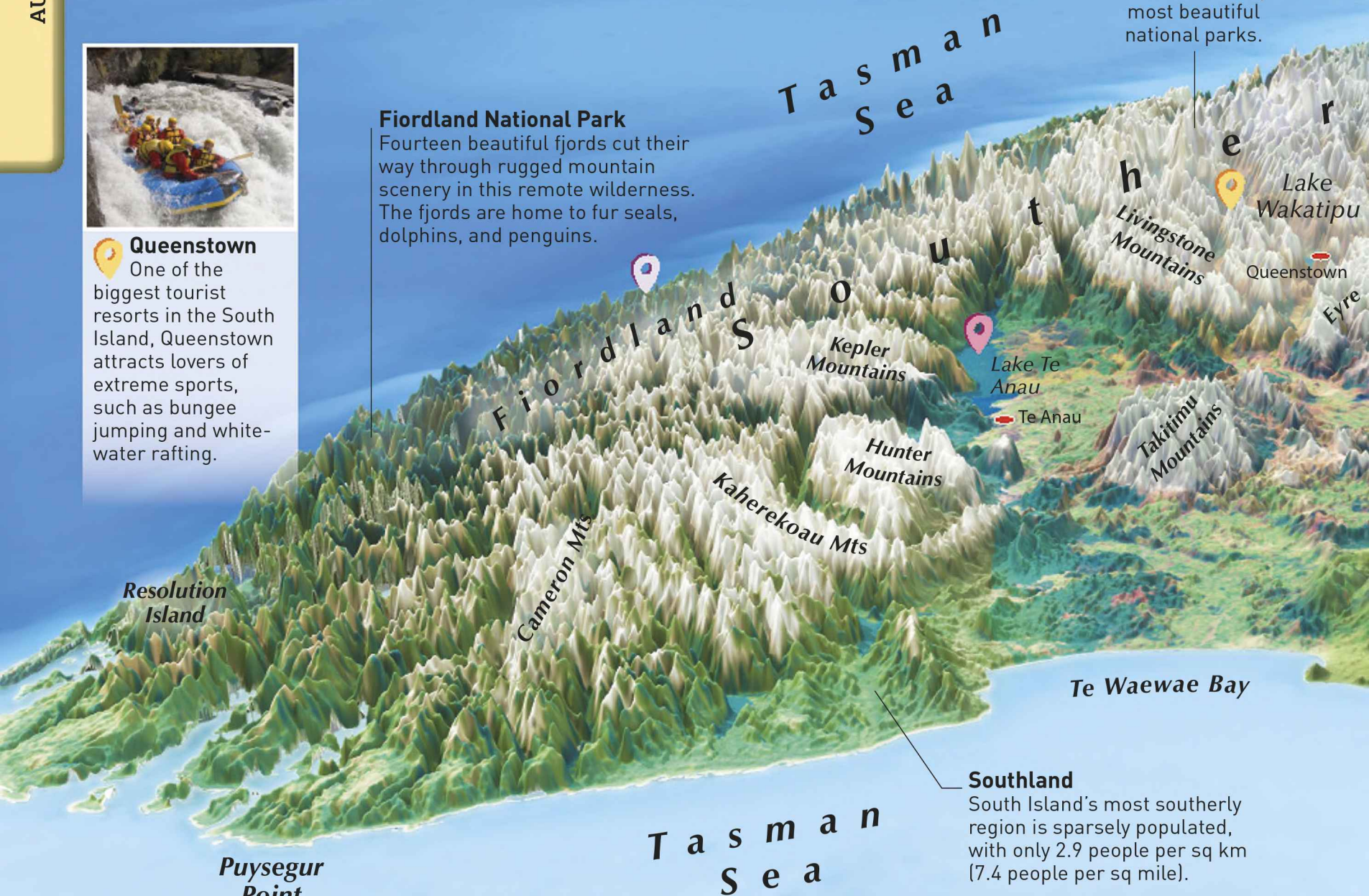
Queenstown
One of the biggest tourist resorts in the South Island, Queenstown attracts lovers of extreme sports, such as bungee jumping and white-water rafting.

Fiordland National Park

Fourteen beautiful fjords cut their way through rugged mountain scenery in this remote wilderness. The fjords are home to fur seals, dolphins, and penguins.

Mount Aspiring National Park

Soaring peaks, alpine lakes, and dense forests make this one of the country's most beautiful national parks.



Milford Sound
This 16-km (10-mile) long fjord is one of the highlights of the Fiordland National Park. The surrounding mountains are very popular with hikers.



Lake Te Anau
With a depth of up to 417 m (1,368 ft), Lake Te Anau contains the largest amount of freshwater in Australasia and Oceania. It is a popular destination for fishing and water sports.



Ruapehu

One of the most active volcanoes in New Zealand, Ruapehu is also a popular ski resort.

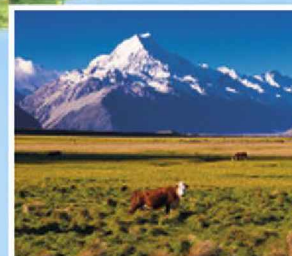
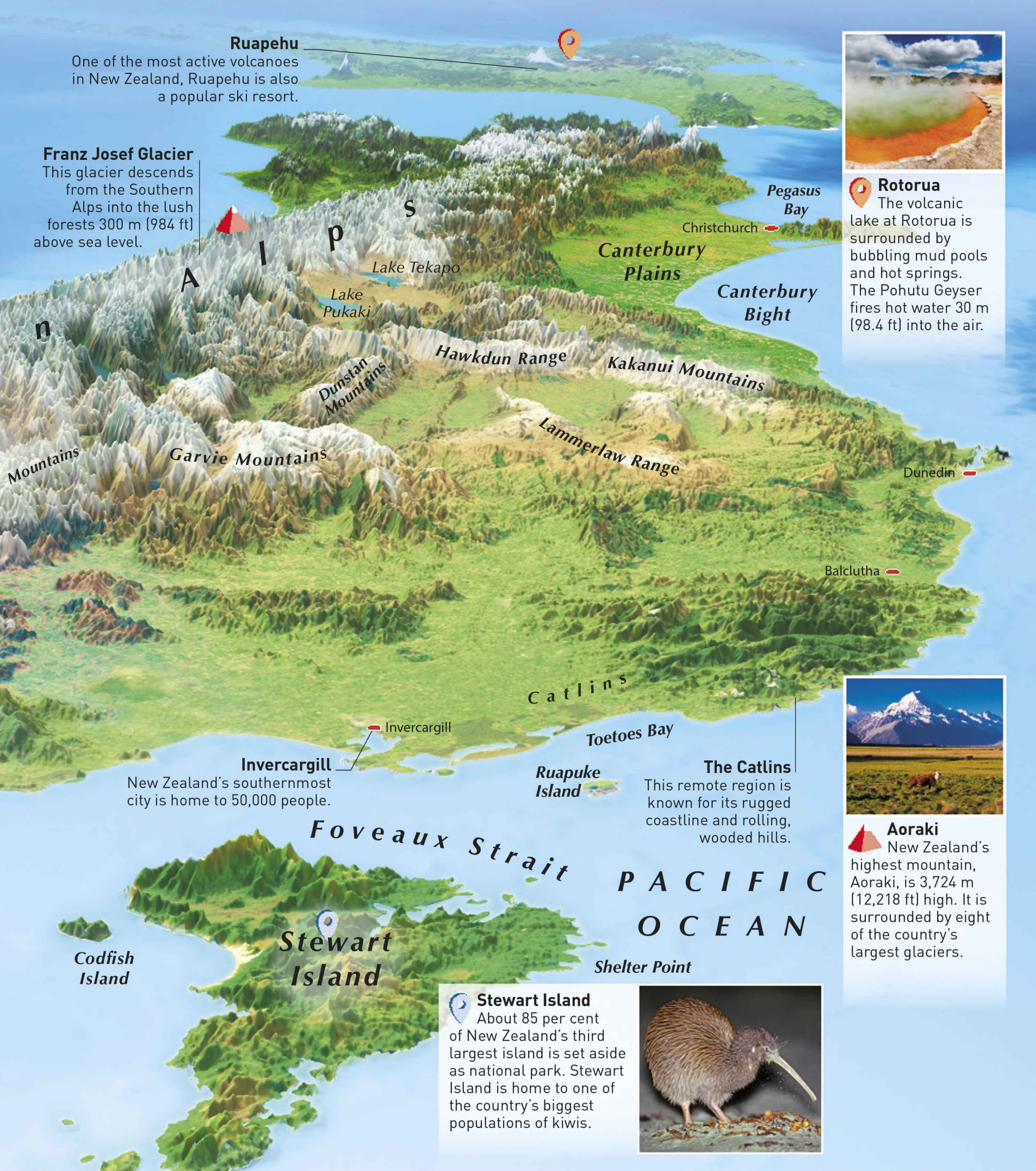
Franz Josef Glacier

This glacier descends from the Southern Alps into the lush forests 300 m (984 ft) above sea level.



Rotorua

The volcanic lake at Rotorua is surrounded by bubbling mud pools and hot springs. The Pohutu Geyser fires hot water 30 m (98.4 ft) into the air.



Aoraki

New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki, is 3,724 m (12,218 ft) high. It is surrounded by eight of the country's largest glaciers.



Stewart Island

About 85 per cent of New Zealand's third largest island is set aside as national park. Stewart Island is home to one of the country's biggest populations of kiwis.





Rock islands,
Southern Lagoon, Palau

Spirit house

These long timber buildings are places in which Melanesian tribes practise rituals. They are reserved for men.

Mount Tavurvur,
New Britain Island,
Papua New Guinea

Spirit house,
Sepik River,
Papua New Guinea

Parliament House,
Port Moresby,
Papua New Guinea

Kuranda Scenic Railway,
Queensland rainforest,
Australia

Kakadu rock art,
Australia

Cattle stations,
Barkly Tableland,
Australia

Florence Falls

The forests of Litchfield National Park are home to this beautiful double waterfall.

Florence Falls,
Australia

Bungle Bungle,
Purnululu National
Park, Australia

Karlu Karlu
(Devil's Marbles),
Northern Territory

Diamantina National Park,
Queensland

Wolfe Creek

A meteorite collision 300,000 years ago left this well-preserved crater.

Wolfe Creek
meteor crater,
Western Australia

Gosses Bluff Crater,
Australia

Uluru
(Ayers Rock),
Northern
Territory

Lake Eyre,
South Australia

Burrup Peninsula
rock art,
Western Australia

Karijini
National Park,
Western Australia

Trans-Australian
Railway, Nullarbor
Plain, Australia

Swan Bells,
Perth, Western
Australia

Bundra Cliffs, Nullarbor Plain,
South Australia

Adelaide Oval,
Adelaide, Australia

Pinnacles Desert,
Western Australia

Fremantle Prison

Built for British convicts in the 1850s, this prison is now a tourist site.

Fremantle Prison,
Western Australia

ANZAC Memorial,
Western Australia

Uluru (Ayers Rock)

This huge mass of sandstone appears to change colour during the day as the sun reflects on its different minerals.





Roi Mata's Domain

Three sites associated with the life and death of one of Vanuatu's greatest chiefs.

East Rennell,
Solomon Islands

Roi Mata's
Domain,
Vanuatu

Jean-Marie Tjibaou Centre

This cultural centre celebrates the art of the Kanak people of New Caledonia.

Amedee Lighthouse,
New Caledonia

Jean-Marie
Tjibaou Centre,
New Caledonia

Great Barrier
Reef, Australia

Q1 Tower,
Gold Coast,
Australia

Byron Bay
Lighthouse,
New South
Wales

Sydney
Opera House,
Sydney, Australia

Royal Exhibition
Building,
Melbourne,
Australia

Twelve Apostles
National Park
Victoria

Port Arthur
Historic Site,
Tasmania

The *roof* of the
**Sydney Opera
House** is covered
with **1,056,006**
ceramic tiles.

Famous landmarks

The rock formations of the Australian Outback and the dramatic scenery of New Zealand's fjordland are just two of the region's many natural wonders. The region is also home to some iconic modern architecture, such as the Sydney Opera House.

● The Great Barrier Reef

One of the natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef stretches for 2,600 km (1,600 miles) along the northeastern coast of Australia. The reef is made of coral, which is built by billions of tiny creatures over hundreds of years. It is home to about 1,500 species of fish, 14 species of sea snake, and more than 3,000 different types of mollusc.



Sky Tower,
Auckland,
New Zealand

Mount Ngauruhoe,
This active volcano is
situated at the heart
of New Zealand's
oldest national park.

Mount Ngauruhoe,
Tongariro National Park,
New Zealand

Milford Sound,
Te Wahipounamu,
New Zealand

Moeraki Boulders,
Hampden,
New Zealand

KEY

○ Landmark location

Climate

Temperatures soar during the day in the dry interior of Australia, while the coastal regions of the southeast are cooler and wetter. New Zealand has a mild climate, although heavy snow falls during the winter on the South Island. The islands of the Pacific are often hot and humid.

January winds

Warm air is drawn into the heart of the continent during the summer months.

January winds

Wettest

Australia's wettest location is Bellenden Ker, in Queensland. It gets an average of 8,034 mm (316.3 in) of rain a year.

Hottest

The highest temperature on record in Australasia and Oceania is 50.7°C (123.3°F), in Oodnadatta, South Australia, on 2 January 1960.

Driest

Troudaninna is Australia's driest place. It receives only 102.9 mm (4.05 in) of rain each year.

Windiest

The strongest gust of wind ever recorded on the continent – 407 km/h (253 mph) – came on 10 April 1996 at Barrow Island, Western Australia.

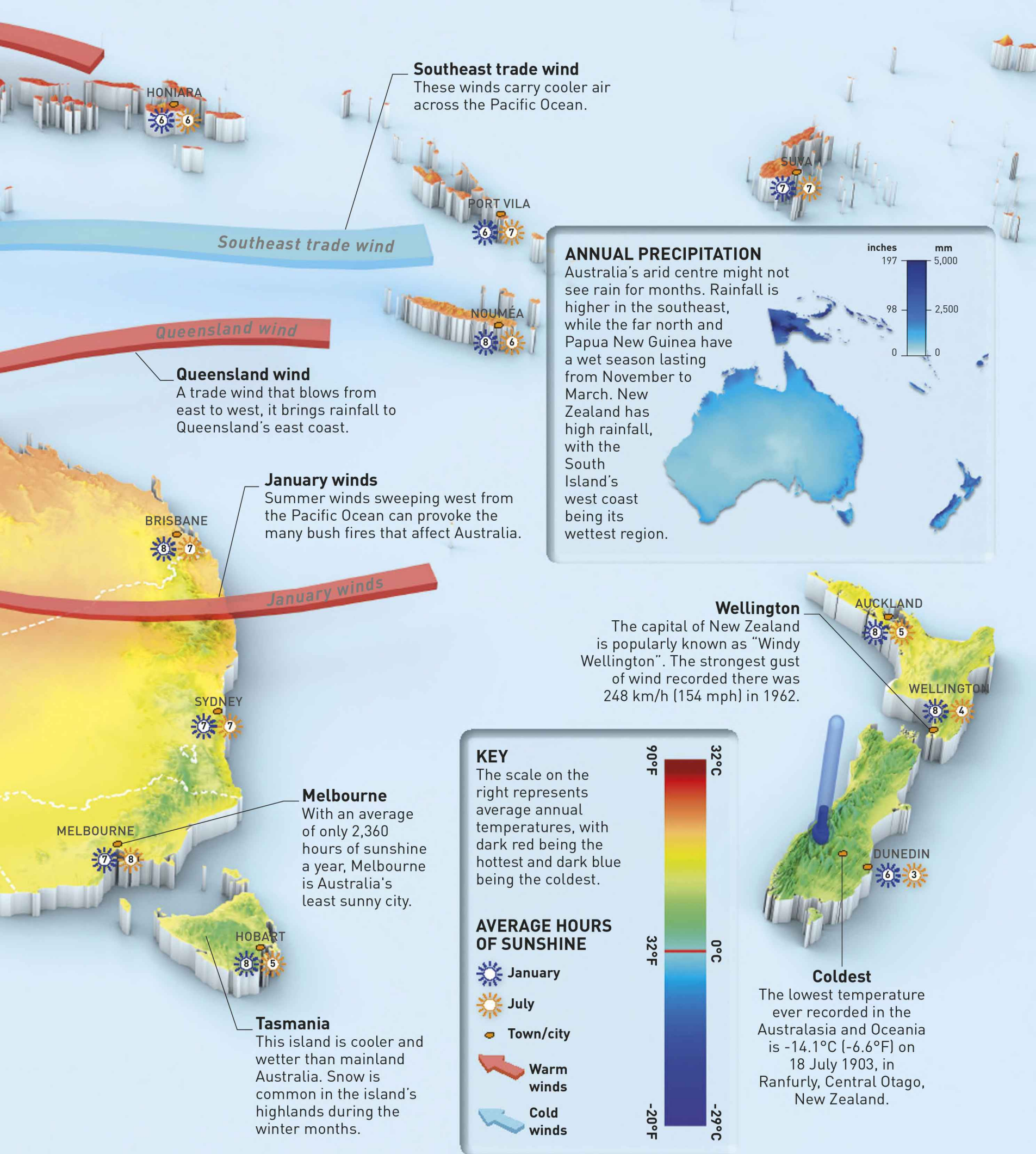
Perth

Australia's sunniest city, Perth enjoys an average of 3,200 hours of sunshine a year.

Bushfires

Long, dry, and very hot summers mean that it is incredibly easy for fires to break out in Australia's vast interior. Some of the worst bushfires on record started on Black Saturday, in February 2009, and resulted in the deaths of 173 people.





BIOMES

Deserts and temperate broadleaf forest are dominant in Australia, while the mountain habitat of the Southern Alps dominates New Zealand.

- Temperate broadleaf forest
- Temperate grassland
- Mediterranean
- Tropical broadleaf forest
- Tropical dry broadleaf forest
- Tropical/sub-tropical grassland
- Mountain
- Desert
- Mangrove

Sir David's echidna

This spiny anteater, named for British naturalist Sir David Attenborough, is critically endangered.

Southern cassowary

Its horn-like crest helps this bird push head-first through vegetation.

Saltwater crocodile

The largest of the reptiles, this crocodile drowns its prey by rolling it in the water.

Cuscus

This possum uses its strong tail to climb through trees.

Frilled lizard

When threatened, this lizard opens a flap of skin to warn off predators.

Queen Alexandra birdwing butterfly

The world's largest butterfly, it has a wingspan of up to 31 cm (12 in).

Clownfish

This fish hides among the poisonous tentacles of the sea anemone.

Black flying fox

This fruit bat's wingspan reaches up to 2 m (6.6 ft).

Blue-spotted stingray

Hiding patiently on the seabed, this ray ambushes passing snails and crabs.

Dingo

Descended from prehistoric domestic dogs, dingoes are widespread throughout Australia.

Cockatoo

These noisy parrots gather in flocks that can include several hundred birds.

Wallaby

Like their larger cousin, the kangaroo, wallabies carry their young in pouches.

Kangaroo

These animals are marsupials, meaning that females nurture their young in pouches.

Spiny anteater

One of the few mammals to lay eggs, the spiny anteater is protected by sharp spines.

Wombat

This marsupial lives in complex burrows that can be up to 200 m (660 ft) long.

Inland taipan

The most venomous land snake in the world, its prey includes rats and other small mammals.

Dwarf bearded dragon

This small lizard lives off insects, invertebrates, and small mammals.

Western brown snake

This fast-moving snake preys on mice and lizards.

Redback spider

A bite from this spider can cause pain, sickness, and convulsions.

Emu

Australia's largest bird can reach up to 1.9 m (6.2 ft) in height. Its shaggy plumage resembles hair.

Tiger snake

This extremely venomous snake preys on frogs, lizards, birds, and small mammals.

Numbat

This marsupial rips open termite nests with its powerful front teeth and claws.

Poisonous snakes

Some of the world's most dangerous snakes live in Australia. The eastern brown snake causes the most deaths, followed by the western brown snake, and the tiger snake.



The eastern brown snake can be extremely aggressive.



Fijian monkey-faced bat

This bat can only be found on Fiji, but is endangered due to habitat loss.

Coconut crab

The largest land-living crab in the world uses its pincers to pierce coconut shells.

Banded sea krait

The coral reef provides a hunting ground for this highly venomous sea snake.

Giant manta ray

To feed, this ray pulls in water through its mouth, collecting up to 30 kg (66 lb) of plankton each day.

Koala

Eucalyptus leaves provide the koala with its staple diet.

Regent bowerbird

The male's plumage is glossy black and gold, while the female's is drab olive-brown.

Lyrebird

During courtship, the male displays an extraordinary repertoire of songs.

Duck-billed platypus

With its webbed feet and paddle-like tail, the platypus is well equipped for its semi-aquatic life.

Kookaburra

Known for its laughing call, the kookaburra eats mice and small reptiles.

Tasmanian devil

The size of a small dog, this ferocious marsupial feeds on animal carcasses.

Green turtle

This turtle feeds on seagrasses and is found throughout the region's seas.

Kiwi

This nocturnal, flightless bird preys on earthworms and other invertebrates.

Dusky dolphin

Highly acrobatic, these dolphins can be found in the coastal waters around New Zealand.

Kakapo

This large, flightless parrot lives off seeds and fruit.

New Zealand sea lion

This highly endangered sea lion preys on crabs and penguins in the seas around New Zealand's South Island.

The **platypus** has a pair of **venomous spurs** on its hind legs.

Wildlife

Australia and New Zealand are home to some weird and wonderful animals, among them egg-laying mammals, marsupials, and flightless birds. The seas of Oceania, meanwhile, are home to turtles, dolphins, and an extraordinary range of tropical fish.





POLEAR REGIONS

Extreme cold

The North and South Poles are the northernmost and southernmost points on Earth. The climate there is extremely harsh, with temperatures rarely rising above 0°C (32°F).



Vinson Massif
Part of a large mountain range by the Ronne Ice Shelf, this massif contains Antarctica's highest peak, Mount Vinson, at 4,892 m (16,050 ft).



South Pole Station
The Amundsen-Scott research station is located at the Geographical South Pole. First opened in 1956, it can house up to 200 researchers.

Southern elephant seal

The largest of all seals, males can be over 6 m (20 ft) long and weigh up to 4,000 kg (8,800 lb).

Antarctic minke whale

This small whale lives in groups of two to four.

Antarctic ice fish

A type of anti-freeze in its blood enables this fish to survive in ice-cold water.

Wandering albatross

With the largest wing span of any bird – up to 3.5 m (11.5 ft) – it spends most of its life in flight at sea.

Snowy sheathbill

This bird does not swim, so steals fish, and eggs or chicks, from penguins.

South polar skua

Up to 53 cm (21 in) tall, this large bird breeds in Antarctica before returning to a life on the oceans.

Antarctic toothfish

Growing up to 1.7 m (5.6 ft) long, this fish feeds on squid, crabs, prawns, and smaller fish.

Leopard seal

This fierce, sharp-toothed predator hunts other seals, penguins, and fish.

Antarctica

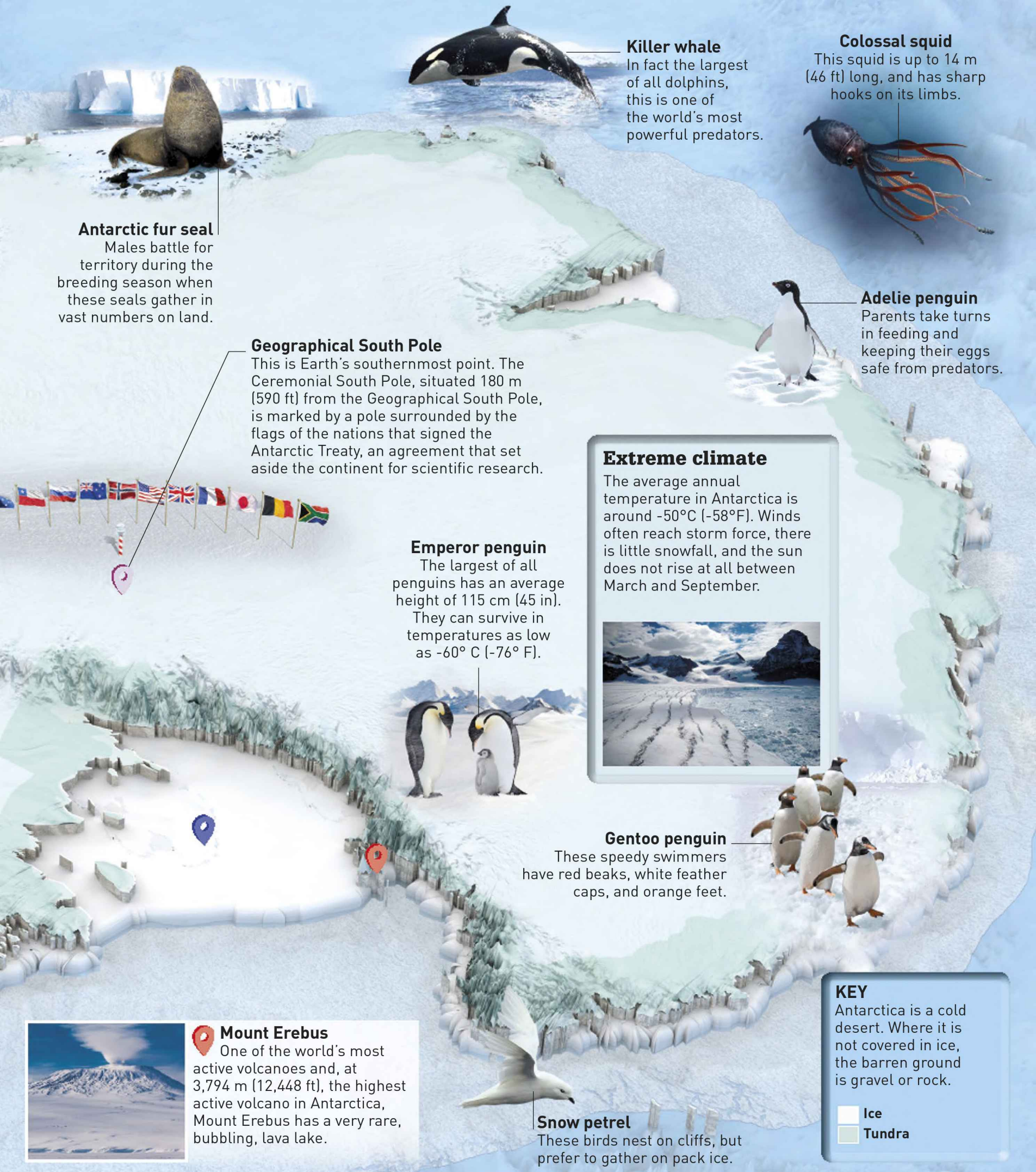


Earth's southernmost continent is the coldest region in the world, with temperatures reaching as low as -93.2°C (-135.8°F). Despite the harsh conditions, the continent is home to a number of animals. However, climate change is a threat to both Antarctica's animals and landscape.



Ross Ice Shelf

This enormous layer of floating ice is over 600 km (370 miles) long. About 90 per cent of its ice lies underwater.



Antarctic fur seal

Males battle for territory during the breeding season when these seals gather in vast numbers on land.



Killer whale

In fact the largest of all dolphins, this is one of the world's most powerful predators.



Colossal squid

This squid is up to 14 m (46 ft) long, and has sharp hooks on its limbs.



Adelie penguin

Parents take turns in feeding and keeping their eggs safe from predators.

Geographical South Pole

This is Earth's southernmost point. The Ceremonial South Pole, situated 180 m (590 ft) from the Geographical South Pole, is marked by a pole surrounded by the flags of the nations that signed the Antarctic Treaty, an agreement that set aside the continent for scientific research.



Emperor penguin

The largest of all penguins has an average height of 115 cm (45 in). They can survive in temperatures as low as -60°C (-76°F).



Extreme climate

The average annual temperature in Antarctica is around -50°C (-58°F). Winds often reach storm force, there is little snowfall, and the sun does not rise at all between March and September.



Gentoo penguin

These speedy swimmers have red beaks, white feather caps, and orange feet.



Mount Erebus

One of the world's most active volcanoes and, at 3,794 m (12,448 ft), the highest active volcano in Antarctica, Mount Erebus has a very rare, bubbling, lava lake.



Snow petrel

These birds nest on cliffs, but prefer to gather on pack ice.

KEY

Antarctica is a cold desert. Where it is not covered in ice, the barren ground is gravel or rock.

Ice
Tundra

Bowhead whale

These whales can break through ice to breathe and can live for up to 130 years.

**North Pole**

Earth's northernmost point is situated on an ice cap. Below it, the Arctic Ocean is around 4,200 m (13,800 ft) deep.

**Siberian salamander**

This amphibian can survive in very low temperatures by deep-freezing itself until temperatures start to rise.

**Bewick's swan**

Each individual swan has a unique pattern on its black and yellow beak.

**Arctic hare**

These hares do not hibernate, and find food under the snow.

**Arctic skua**

These aggressive seabirds steal food from other birds by attacking them in mid-air.

**Spectacled eider**

After breeding on the coasts of Alaska and northeast Siberia, these ducks gather in spots of open sea in the pack ice.

**Guillemot**

Found throughout the Arctic, these birds can dive as deep as 60 m (197 ft) to find food.

**Rock ptarmigan**

This bird changes its white feathers to speckled brown in summer.

**Arctic tern**

These small birds fly 70,000 km (43,496 miles) between the North and South Poles every year.

**BIOMES**

- Ice
- Tundra
- Boreal forest/taiga

**Lake Hazen**

One of the largest lakes in the Arctic region, the 269-m (883-ft) deep Lake Hazen, in Canada, is frozen over for most of the year.

**Greenland shark**

A slow-swimming scavenger, this shark sniffs out dead animals in the water.





Yenisei

The Yenisei river, in Russia, is the largest river to flow out into the Arctic Ocean. Its 50-km (31-mile) wide estuary is frozen for long parts of the year.



The Arctic

Unlike Antarctica, the Arctic is not a continent, but the area of frozen waters surrounding the North Pole. It includes the northernmost parts of three continents – North America, Europe, and Asia. Many different animals have made a home in this inhospitable region.



Siberian crane

This bird easily snips off roots and catches fish with its saw-edged beak.



Beluga whale

White in colour, this small whale speaks in clicks and whistles.



Ermine

This mammal's coat turns from brown to white in winter for camouflage.



Porbeagle shark

This shark grows up to 2.5 m (8.2 ft) in length and feeds on squid and fish.



Spiny dogfish

This fish is one of the most numerous species of shark in the world.



Brent goose

Unlike other geese, the Brent flies in long lines instead of in a V-shape.



Polar bear

A powerful predator, this bear roams over land and pack ice to find prey.



Narwhal

The tusks of this small whale can grow up to 3 m (9.8 ft).



Lemming

Soft, warm fur helps this rodent stay active through the winter.



Bluntnose sixgill shark

This fast-swimming shark has six gills instead of the five normal in most sharks.



Puffin

60 per cent of the world's puffins live in Iceland.



Murmansk

Around 300,000 people live in the Russian port of Murmansk, the largest city inside the Arctic Circle.







THE OCEANS

Mighty seas

Oceans cover approximately 71 per cent of Earth's surface and contain 97 per cent of the water found on our planet.

Pacific Ocean

<https://sanet.st/blogs/polatebooks/>

The Pacific is by far the world's largest ocean. At its widest point (stretching from Colombia to Indonesia), it extends for 19,800 km (12,300 miles) – almost halfway around the world. The deepest trenches on Earth can be found here, together with massive volcanoes that rise up from the ocean's floor.

FAST FACTS

Total area:

155,557,000 sq km
(60,060,893 sq miles)

Coastline:

135,663 km (84,297 miles)

Average depth:

3,970 m (13,025 ft)

Lowest point:

Challenger Deep, Mariana Trench –
10,924 m (35,840 ft)

Major access points:

- ① Panama Canal
- ② Strait of Magellan
- ③ Tsugaru Strait
- ④ Tsushima
- ⑤ Torres Strait



The Strait of Magellan, in southern Chile/Argentina, connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

The Emperor Seamounts

These underwater mountains extend northwest from Hawaii. Each mount is named for a Japanese emperor.

Mariana Trench

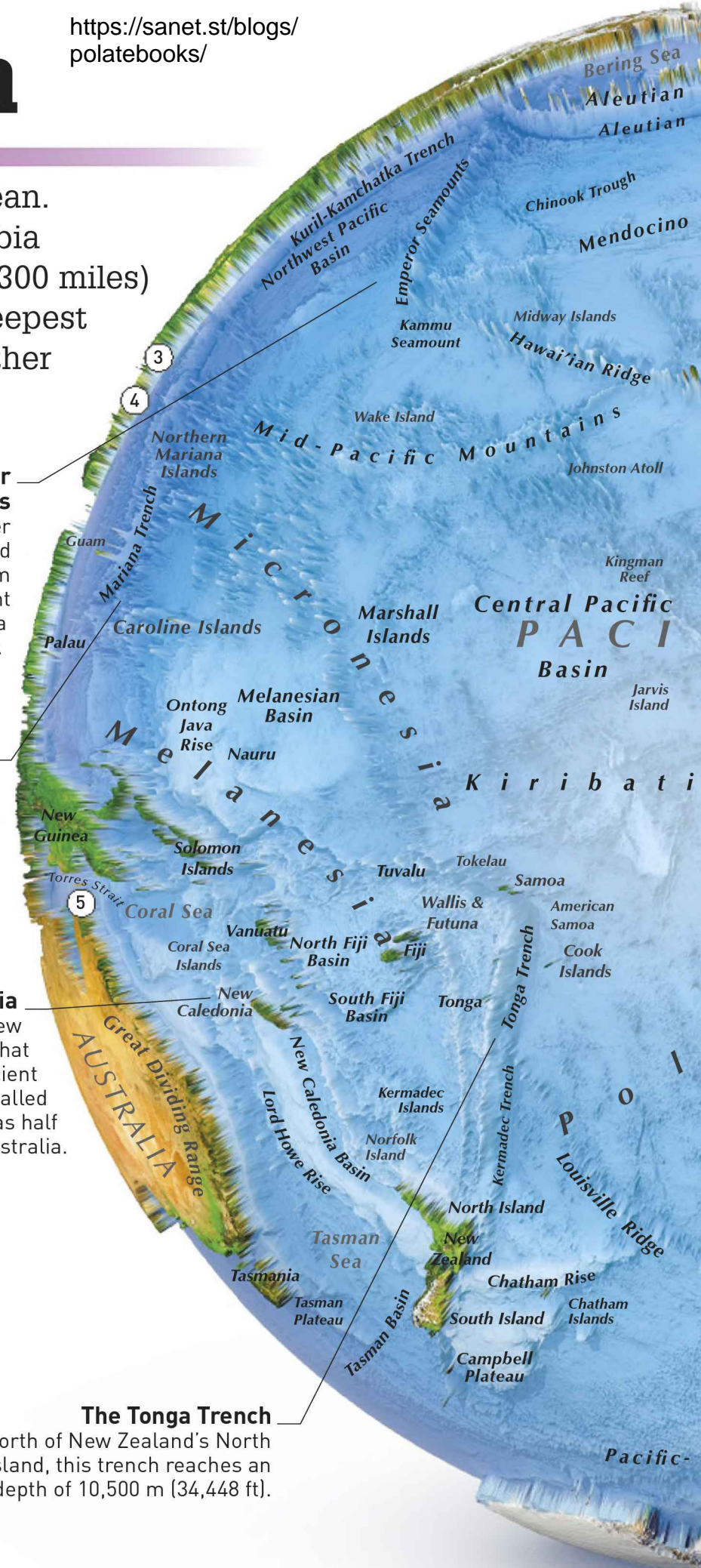
The lowest point on Earth, its deepest point lies almost 11 km (7 miles) beneath the ocean's surface.

New Caledonia

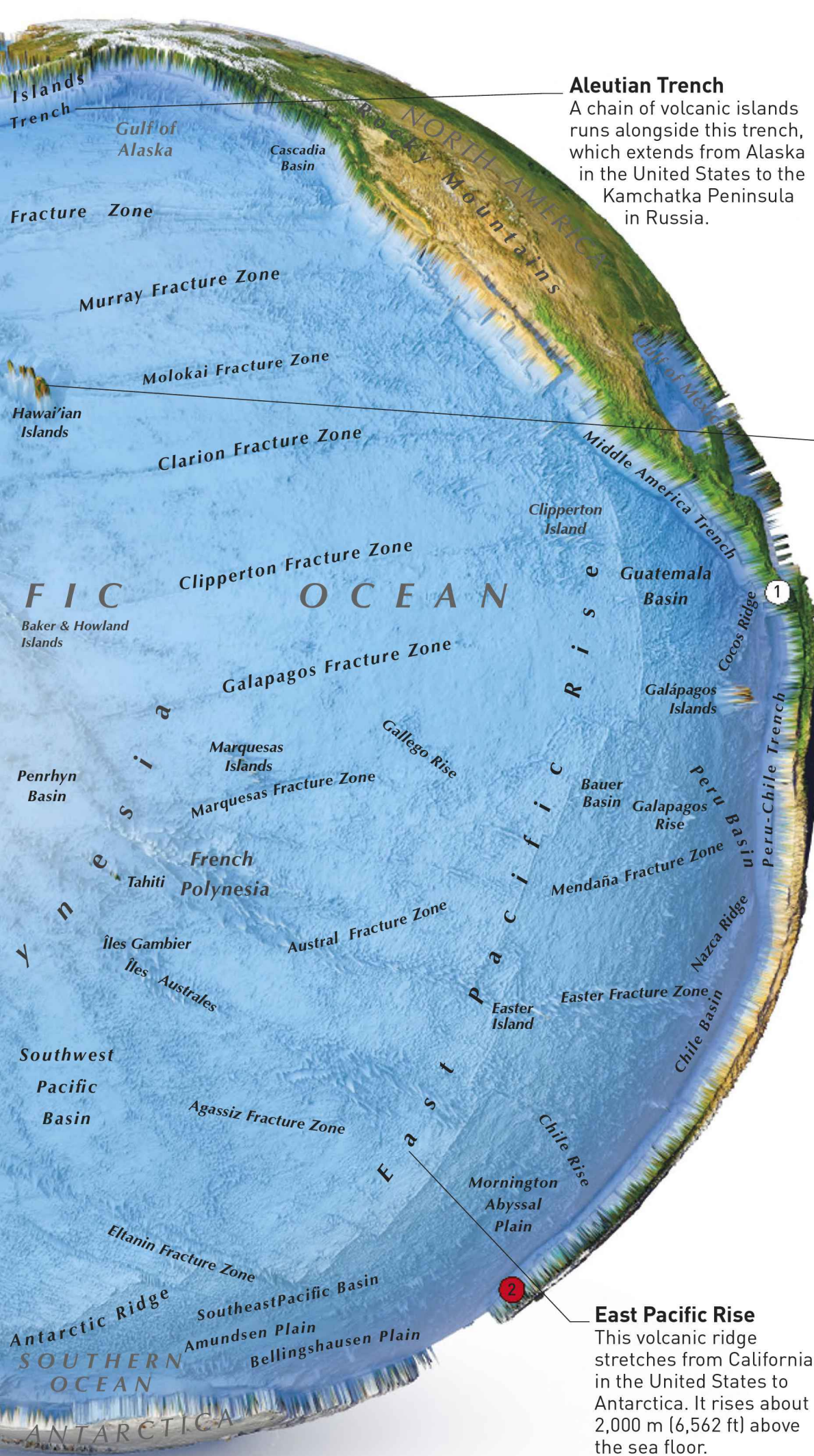
This island and New Zealand are all that remain of an ancient continent called Zealandia that was half the size of Australia.

The Tonga Trench

Lying north of New Zealand's North Island, this trench reaches an average depth of 10,500 m (34,448 ft).



The **Pacific Ocean** contains *just over half* of all the world's **seawater**.



Aleutian Trench

A chain of volcanic islands runs alongside this trench, which extends from Alaska in the United States to the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia.

Mauna Loa

Measuring 9,000 m (29,500 ft) in height from the ocean floor to its summit, the world's largest active volcano looms over Hawaii.

Peru-Chile Trench

This 5,900-km (3,660-mile) long trench is the longest in the Pacific Ocean. It follows the line of the Andes Mountains.



Ring of Fire

The Pacific Ocean is surrounded by a band of volcanoes called the Ring of Fire. This ring extends from New Zealand to South America and contains more than three-quarters of the world's volcanoes, including Mount Fuji, in Japan, and Mount St Helens in the United States.

East Pacific Rise

This volcanic ridge stretches from California in the United States to Antarctica. It rises about 2,000 m (6,562 ft) above the sea floor.

Atlantic Ocean

The Atlantic is the world's second-largest ocean. It stretches from the Arctic to the Antarctic, separating Europe and Africa from the Americas. The Atlantic Ocean covers about one-fifth of the planet's surface, is home to some of the world's richest fishing waters, and contains a plentiful supply of gas and oil.

FAST FACTS

Total area:

76,762,000 sq km (29,637,974 sq miles)

Coastline:

111,866 km (69,510 miles)

Average depth:

3,646 m (11,962 ft)

Lowest point:

Milwaukee Deep, Puerto Rico Trench – 8,605 m (28,232 ft)

Major access points:

- ① English Channel
- ② Panama Canal
- ③ Straits of Florida
- ④ Strait of Gibraltar
- ⑤ Strait of Magellan



② The Panama Canal, one of the world's busiest waterways, connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Puerto Rico Trench

This trench stretches for 800 km (497 miles) and contains the deepest point in the Atlantic Ocean.

Mid-Atlantic Ridge

This underwater mountain range runs for about 16,000 km (10,000 miles) along the ocean floor.

Amazon Fan

Mud and clay from the Amazon River have settled on the ocean floor, forming a mound of sediment 1.3 million sq km (502,000 sq miles) in size.

Icebergs

The icebergs of the Antarctic are usually much larger than those found in the Arctic. They can reach lengths of up to 80 km (50 miles).



Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean is the smallest of the world's major oceans, but it provides important sea routes connecting the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia, with Europe and the Americas. As with the Pacific Ocean, its warm waters are dotted with coral atolls and islands. Around one-fifth of the world's population live on its shores.

FAST FACTS

Total area:

68,556,000 sq km
(26,469,620 sq miles)

Coastline:

66,526 km (41,337 miles)

Average depth:

3,741 m (12,274 ft)

Lowest point:

Diamantina Deep, Java Trench –
7,258 m (23,812 ft)

Major access points:

- ① Bab El Mandeb
- ② Strait of Hormuz
- ③ Strait of Malacca
- ④ Suez Canal
- ⑤ Torres Strait



Satellite view of the Strait of Hormuz, with the United Arab Emirates on the left of the image.

Mid-Indian Ridge

Heading southeast from the Gulf of Aden, this ridge meets the Southwest Indian Ridge mid-ocean.

Seychelles

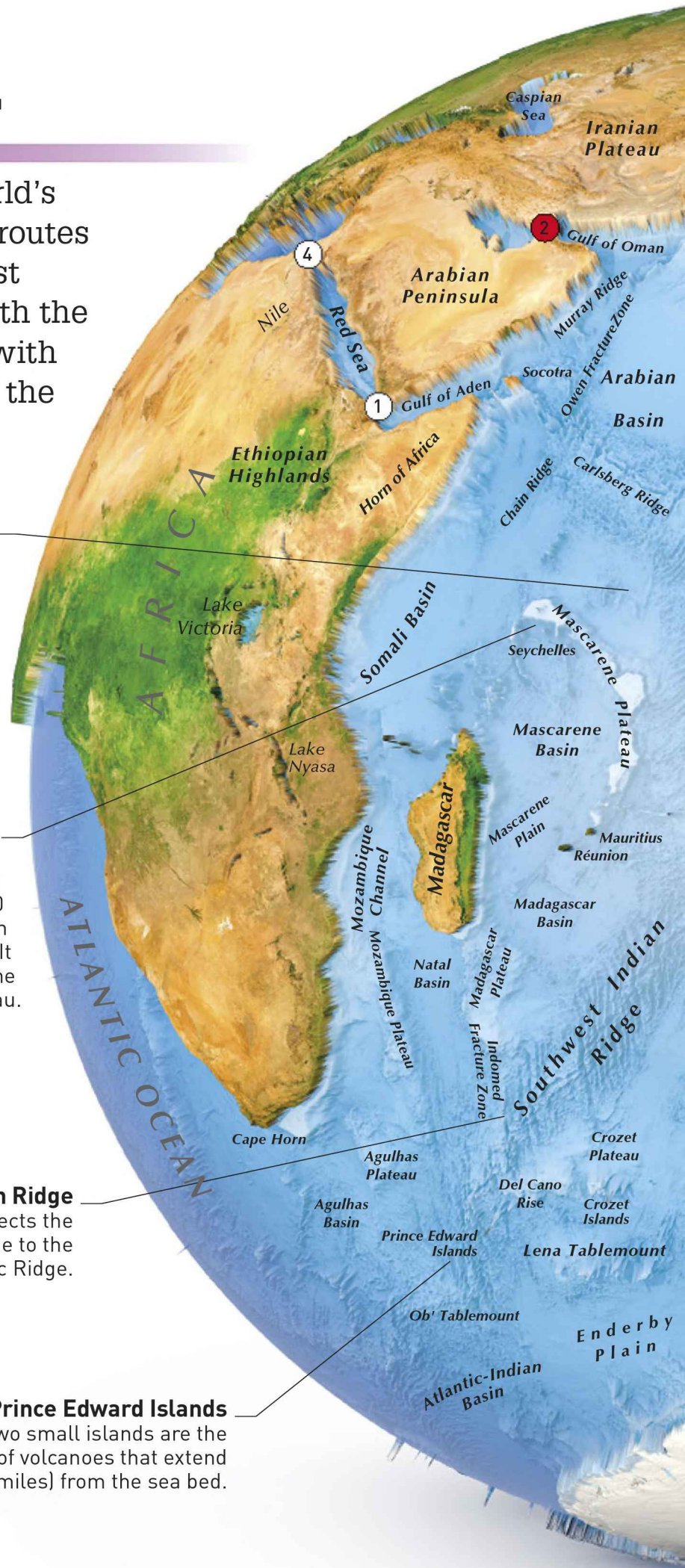
This group of 115 islands lies 1,819 km (1,130 miles) to the north of Madagascar. It forms part of the Mascarene Plateau.

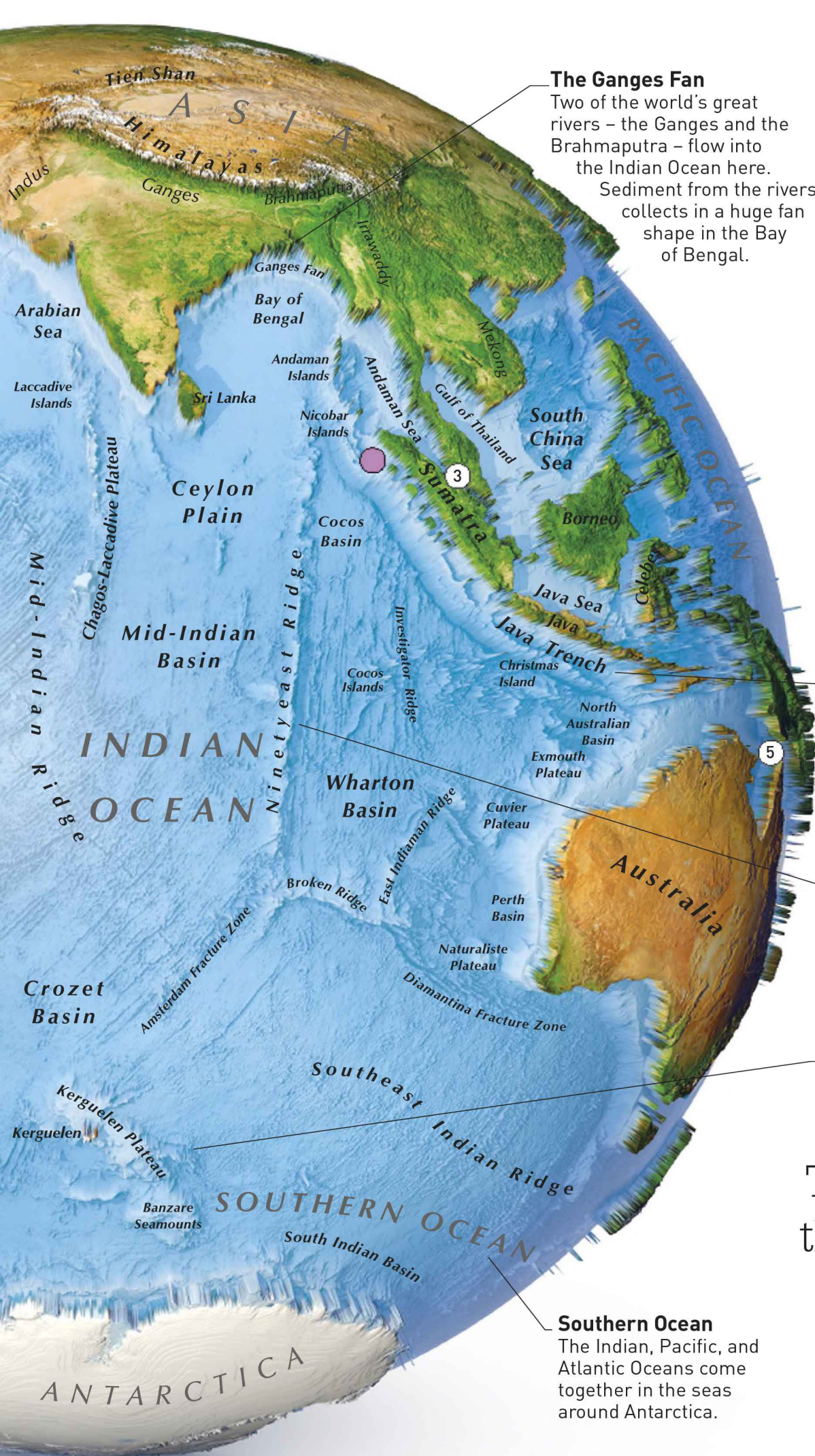
Southwest Indian Ridge

This ridge connects the Mid-Indian Ridge to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

Prince Edward Islands

These two small islands are the peaks of volcanoes that extend 5 km (3 miles) from the sea bed.





The Ganges Fan

Two of the world's great rivers – the Ganges and the Brahmaputra – flow into the Indian Ocean here. Sediment from the rivers collects in a huge fan shape in the Bay of Bengal.



Indian Ocean tsunami

On 26 December 2004, an earthquake (the third largest ever recorded) off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a tsunami (a huge wave that destroys everything in its path). It had catastrophic consequences for many countries bordering the Indian Ocean, when waves of up to 30 m (100 ft) high left as many as 230,000 people dead.

Java Trench

The Indian Ocean's only major trench runs for 2,570 km (1,600 miles) south of the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra.

Ninetyeast Ridge

This ridge is named for the line of longitude it follows. At 5,000 km (3,100 miles), it is the world's longest sea ridge, and also its straightest.

Kerguelen Plateau

Only a few uninhabited islands remain of what was once a small continent.

The **Indian Ocean** is the world's **warmest**. Water temperatures reach **28°C (82.4°F)** in its **eastern** parts.

Southern Ocean

The Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans come together in the seas around Antarctica.





REFERENCE

Night and day

While Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa are bathed in sunlight, in Europe and West Africa, the lights continue to shine in the dark hours before dawn.

Countries of the world

This section includes 195 of the world's countries. With the exception of Taiwan and the Vatican City, all of them are member states of the United Nations.

* denotes official language

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

CANADA

North America



Capital: Ottawa

Population: 35.1 million / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)

Total area: 9,984,670 sq km (3,855,103 sq miles)

Languages: English*, French*, Punjabi, Italian, German, Cantonese, Inuktitut

Currency: Canadian dollar = 100 cents

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

North America



Capital: Washington, DC

Population: 324 million / 33 people per sq km (85 people per sq mile)

Total area: 9,833,517 sq km (3,796,742 sq miles)

Languages: English, Spanish

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

MEXICO

North America



Capital: Mexico City

Population: 123.2 million / 63 people per sq km (162 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,964,375 sq km (758,449 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Nahuatl, Mayan

Currency: Mexican peso = 100 centavos

BELIZE

Central America



Capital: Belmopan

Population: 347,370 / 15 people per sq km (39 people per sq mile)

Total area: 22,966 sq km (8,867 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole, Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna (Carib)

Currency: Belizean dollar = 100 cents

COSTA RICA

Central America



Capital: San José

Population: 4.8 million / 94 people per sq km (243 people per sq mile)

Total area: 51,100 sq km (19,730 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, English

Currency: Costa Rican colón = 100 céntimos

EL SALVADOR

Central America



Capital: San Salvador

Population: 6.1 million / 290 people per sq km (750 people per sq mile)

Total area: 21,041 sq km (8,124 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Nawat

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents

GUATEMALA

Central America



Capital: Guatemala City

Population: 15.2 million / 140 people per sq km (362 people per sq mile)

Total area: 108,889 sq km (42,042 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, indigenous languages

Currency: Quetzal = 100 centavos

HONDURAS

Central America



Capital: Tegucigalpa

Population: 8.9 million / 79 people per sq km (206 people per sq mile)

Total area: 112,090 sq km (43,278 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Indigenous languages

Currency: Lempira = 100 centavos

NICARAGUA

Central America



Capital: Managua

Population: 6 million / 46 people per sq km (119 people per sq mile)

Total area: 130,370 sq km (50,336 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Miskito

Currency: Córdoba = 100 centavos

PANAMA

Central America



Capital: Panama City

Population: 3.7 million / 49 people per sq km (127 people per sq mile)

Total area: 75,420 sq km (29,120 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, English Creole, Indigenous languages including Ngabere

Currency: Balboa = 100 centesimos

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

West Indies



Capital: St John's

Population: 92,436 / 209 people per sq km (540 people per sq mile)

Total area: 443 sq km (171 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Antiguan Creole

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

THE BAHAMAS

West Indies



Capital: Nassau

Population: 324,600 / 23 people per sq km (61 people per sq mile)

Total area: 13,880 sq km (5,359 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole, French Creole

Currency: Bahamian dollar = 100 cents

BARBADOS

West Indies



Capital: Bridgetown

Population: 290,600 / 676 people per sq km (1,750 people per sq mile)

Total area: 430 sq km (166 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Bajan (Barbadian English)

Currency: Barbados dollar = 100 cents

CUBA

West Indies



Capital: Havana

Population: 11 million / 99 people per sq km (256 people per sq mile)

Total area: 110,860 sq km (42,803 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*

Currency: Cuban peso = 100 centavos

DOMINICA

West Indies



Capital: Roseau

Population: 73,607 / 98 people per sq km (254 people per sq mile)

Total area: 751 sq km (290 sq miles)

Languages: English*, French Creole

Currency: East Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

West Indies



Capital: Santo Domingo

Population: 10.5 million / 216 people per sq km (559 people per sq mile)

Total area: 48,670 sq km (18,792 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*

Currency: Dominican Republic peso = 100 centavos

GRENADA

West Indies



Capital: St George's

Population: 111,000 / 323 people per sq km (836 people per sq mile)

Total area: 344 sq km (133 sq miles)

Languages: English*, French Patois

Currency: East Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

HAITI

West Indies



Capital: Port-au-Prince

Population: 10.5 million / 378 people per sq km (979 people per sq mile)

Total area: 27,750 sq km (10,714 sq miles)

Languages: French*, French Creole*

Currency: Gourde = 100 centimes

JAMAICA

West Indies



Capital: Kingston

Population: 3 million / 237 people per sq km (613 people per sq mile)

Total area: 10,991 sq km (4,243 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole

Currency: Jamaican dollar = 100 cents

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

West Indies



Capital: Basseterre

Population: 52,329 / 201 people per sq km (519 people per sq mile)

Total area: 261 sq km (101 sq miles)

Language: English*

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

SAINT LUCIA

West Indies



Capital: Castries

Population: 164,464 / 267 people per sq km (692 people per sq mile)

Total area: 616 sq km (238 sq miles)

Languages: English*, French Creole

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

West Indies



Capital: Kingstown

Population: 102,350 / 263 people per sq km (682 people per sq mile)

Total area: 389 sq km (150 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

West Indies



Capital: Port-of-Spain

Population: 1.2 million / 234 people per sq km (606 people per sq mile)

Total area: 5,128 sq km (1,980 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Caribbean Hindustani, French, Spanish

Currency: Trinidad and Tobago dollar = 100 cents

SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA

South America



Capital: Bogotá

Population: 46.7 million / 41 people per sq km (106 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,138,910 sq km (439,736 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Amerindian languages, English Creole

Currency: Colombian peso = 100 centavos

GUYANA

South America



Capital: Georgetown

Population: 735,900 / 3 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)

Total area: 214,969 sq km (83,000 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole, Indigenous languages, Indian languages

Currency: Guyana dollar = 100 cents

SURINAME

South America



Capital: Paramaribo

Population: 585,800 / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)

Total area: 163,820 sq km (63,251 sq miles)

Languages: Dutch*, English, Sranan Tongo

Currency: Suriname dollar = 100 cents

VENEZUELA

South America




Capital: Caracas


Population: 30.9 million / 34 people per sq km (88 people per sq mile)

Total area: 912,050 sq km (352,143 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, numerous indigenous languages

Currency: Bolívar fuerte = 100 centimos

BOLIVIA
South America

Capital: Sucre (judicial);
La Paz (administrative)
Population: 10.8 million / 10 people per sq km
(26 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,098,581 sq km (424,165 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Quechua*, Aymara*
Currency: Boliviano = 100 centavos


ECUADOR
South America

Capital: Quito
Population: 15.9 million / 56 people per sq km
(145 people per sq mile)
Total area: 283,561 sq km (109,484 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Quechua*, other
indigenous languages
Currency: US dollar = 100 cents


PERU
South America


Capital: Lima
Population: 30.7 million / 24 people per sq km
(196 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,285,216 sq km (496,225 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Quechua*, Aymará*, other
indigenous languages
Currency: New sol = 100 centimos

BRAZIL
South America

Capital: Brasília
Population: 204.3 million / 24 people per sq km
(62 people per sq mile)
Total area: 8,515,770 sq km (3,287,957 sq miles)
Languages: Portuguese*, German, Italian,
Spanish, Polish, Japanese
Currency: Real = 100 centavos


ARGENTINA
South America

Capital: Buenos Aires
Population: 43.4 million / 16 people per sq km
(40 people per sq mile)
Total area: 2,780,400 sq km (1,073,518 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Italian, English, German,
French, Indigenous languages
Currency: Argentine Peso = 100 centavos


URUGUAY
South America

Capital: Montevideo
Population: 3.4 million / 27 people per sq km
(70 people per sq mile)
Total area: 176,215 sq km (68,036 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Portuguôl
Currency: Uruguayan peso = 100 centesimos

CHILE
South America

Capital: Santiago
Population: 17.5 million / 23 people per sq km
(60 people per sq mile)
Total area: 756,102 sq km (291,932 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Indigenous languages
Currency: Chilean peso = 100 centavos

PARAGUAY
South America


Capital: Asunción
Population: 6.9 million / 17 people per sq km
(44 people per sq mile)
Total area: 406,752 sq km (157,048 sq miles)
Languages: Spanish*, Guarani*
Currency: Guaraní = 100 centimos


AFRICA
ALGERIA
North Africa

Capital: Algiers
Population: 39.5 million / 17 people per sq km
(43 people per sq mile)
Total area: 2,381,740 sq km (919,595 sq miles)
Languages: Arabic*, Tamazight*, French
Currency: Algerian dinar = 100 santeems


LIBYA
North Africa

Capital: Tripoli
Population: 6.5 million / 4 people per sq km
(10 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,759,540 sq km (679,362 sq miles)
Languages: Arabic*, Berber languages
Currency: Libyan dinar = 1,000 dirhams


MOROCCO
North Africa


Capital: Rabat
Population: 33.7 million / 76 people per sq km
(196 people per sq mile)
Total area: 446,550 sq km (172,414 sq miles)
Languages: Arabic*, Tamazight*, French
Currency: Moroccan dirham = 100 santim


TUNISIA
North Africa

Capital: Tunis
Population: 11.1 million / 68 people per sq km
(176 people per sq mile)
Total area: 163,610 sq km (63,170 sq miles)
Languages: Arabic*, French, Berber
Currency: Tunisian dinar = 1,000 millimes


BURUNDI
Central Africa

Capital: Bujumbura
Population: 10.7 million / 384 people per sq km
(996 people per sq mile)
Total area: 27,830 sq km (10,745 sq miles)
Languages: Kirundi*, French*, Kiswahili
Currency: Burundi franc = 100 centimes


DJIBOUTI
East Africa

Capital: Djibouti
Population: 828,324 / 36 people per sq km
(92 people per sq mile)
Total area: 23,200 sq km (8,958 sq miles)
Languages: French*, Arabic*, Somali, Afar
Currency: Djibouti franc = 100 centimes


EGYPT
North Africa

Capital: Cairo
Population: 88.5 million / 88 people per sq km
(229 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,001,450 sq km (386,660 sq miles)
Languages: Arabic*, French, English
Currency: Egyptian pound = 100 piastres


ERITREA
East Africa

Capital: Asmara
Population: 5.9 million / 50 people per sq km
(130 people per sq mile)
Total area: 117,600 sq km (45,406 sq miles)
Languages: Tigrinya*, Arabic*, English*, Tigre,
Afar, Bilen, Kunama, Nara
Currency: Nafka = 100 cents


ETHIOPIA
East Africa

Capital: Addis Ababa
Population: 102.3 million / 91 people per sq km
(235 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,104,300 sq km (426,373 sq miles)
Languages: Amharic*, Oromo, Tigrinya
Currency: Ethiopian birr = 100 santim


KENYA
East Africa

Capital: Nairobi
Population: 45.5 million / 80 people per sq km
(208 people per sq mile)
Total area: 580,367 sq km (224,081 sq miles)
Languages: Kiswahili*, English*
Currency: Kenya shilling = 100 cents


RWANDA
Central Africa

Capital: Kigali
Population: 12.9 million / 490 people per sq km
(1,269 people per sq mile)
Total area: 26,338 sq km (10,169 sq miles)
Languages: French*, Kinyarwanda*, English
Currency: Rwandan franc = 100 centimes


SOMALIA
East Africa

Capital: Mogadishu
Population: 10.8 million / 17 people per sq km
(44 people per sq mile)
Total area: 637,657 sq km (246,199 sq miles)
Languages: Somali*, Arabic*, English, Italian
Currency: Somali shilling = 100 cents


SOUTH SUDAN
East Africa

Capital: Juba
Population: 12.5 million / 19 people per sq km
(50 people per sq mile)
Total area: 644,329 sq km (248,777 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Arabic, Dinka, Nuer
Currency: South Sudanese pound = 100 plastres


SUDAN
East Africa

Capital: Khartoum
Population: 36.7 million / 20 people per sq km
(51 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,861,484 sq km (718,723 sq miles)
Languages: Arabic*, English*, Nubian, Fur
Currency: Sudanese pound = 100 piastres

TANZANIA
East Africa

Capital: Dodoma
Population: 52.5 million / 55 people per sq km
(144 people per sq mile)
Total area: 947,300 sq km (365,755 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Swahili*, Sukuma, Chagga,
Nyamwezi, Hehe, Makonde
Currency: Tanzanian shilling = 100 cents

UGANDA
East Africa

Capital: Kampala
Population: 38.3 million / 159 people per sq km
(412 people per sq mile)
Total area: 241,038 sq km (93,065 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Luganda
Currency: Uganda shilling = 100 cents


BENIN
West Africa

Capital: Porto-Novo
Population: 10.4 million / 92 people per sq km
(239 people per sq mile)
Total area: 112,622 sq km (43,483 sq miles)
Languages: French*, Fon, Bariba, Yoruba, Adja,
Houeda, Somba
Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes


BURKINA FASO
West Africa

Capital: Ouagadougou
Population: 18.9 million / 69 people per sq km
(179 people per sq mile)
Total area: 274,200 sq km (105,869 sq miles)
Languages: French*, various languages belonging
to the Sudanic family
Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

CAPE VERDE
Atlantic Ocean

Capital: Praia
Population: 545,993 / 135 people per sq km
(351 people per sq mile)
Total area: 4,033 sq km (1,557 sq miles)
Languages: Portuguese*, Portuguese Creole
Currency: Cape Verde escudo = 100 centavos

IVORY COAST
West Africa

Capital: Yamoussoukro
Population: 23.7 million / 74 people per sq km
(190 people per sq mile)
Total area: 322,463 sq km (124,504 sq miles)
Languages: French*, Dioula
Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

GAMBIA
West Africa

Capital: Banjul
Population: 2 million / 177 people per sq km
(458 people per sq mile)
Total area: 11,300 sq km (4,363 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Mandinka, Fula, Wolof
Currency: Dalasi = 100 butut


GHANA
West Africa

Capital: Accra
Population: 26.9 million / 113 people per sq km
(292 people per sq mile)
Total area: 238,533 sq km (92,098 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Asante, Ewe, Fante, Boron
Currency: Cedi = 100 pesewas

GUINEA
West Africa

Capital: Conakry
Population: 12.1 million / 49 people per sq km
(128 people per sq mile)
Total area: 245,857 sq km (94,925 sq miles)
Languages: French*, Fulani, Malinke, Soussou
Currency: Guinea franc = 100 centimes

GUINEA BISSAU
West Africa

Capital: Bissau
Population: 1.8 million / 49 people per sq km
(124 people per sq mile)
Total area: 36,125 sq km (13,948 sq miles)
Languages: Portuguese*, West African Crioulo
Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

LIBERIA
West Africa

Capital: Monrovia
Population: 4.3 million / 39 people per sq km
(101 people per sq mile)
Total area: 111,370 sq km (43,000 sq miles)
Languages: English*
Currency: Liberian dollar = 100 cents

MALI
West Africa

Capital: Bamako
Population: 17.5 million / 14 people per sq km
(37 people per sq mile)
Total area: 1,240,000 sq km (478,764 sq miles)
Languages: French*, Bambara, Peul, Dogon
Currency: West African CFA franc = 100 centimes

MAURITANIA**West Africa****Capital:** Nouakchott**Population:** 3.7 million / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,030,700 sq km (397,953 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Hassaniyah Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke**Currency:** Ouguiya = 5 khoums**NIGER****West Africa****Capital:** Niamey**Population:** 18.6 million
5 people per sq km /
(38 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,267,000 sq km (489,189 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Hausa, Djerma**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**NIGERIA****West Africa****Capital:** Abuja**Population:** 186 million / 201 people per sq km (522 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 923,768 sq km (356,667 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo**Currency:** Naira = 100 kobo**SENEGAL****West Africa****Capital:** Dakar**Population:** 14.3 million / 73 people per sq km (188 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 196,722 sq km (75,955 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Wolof, Pulaar**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**SIERRA LEONE****West Africa****Capital:** Freetown**Population:** 6 million / 84 people per sq km (217 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 71,740 sq km (27,669 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Mende, Temne, Krio**Currency:** Leone = 100 cents**TOGO****Western Africa****Capital:** Lomé**Population:** 7.8 million / 137 people per sq km (356 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 56,785 sq km (21,925 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Ewe, Mina, Kabye**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CAMEROON****Central Africa****Capital:** Yaoundé**Population:** 23.7 million / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 475,440 sq km (183,567 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, French*, Bamileke, Fang, Fulani**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC****Central Africa****Capital:** Bangui**Population:** 5.4 million / 9 people per sq km (23 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 622,984 sq km (240,535 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Sangho, Banda, Gbaya**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CHAD****Central Africa****Capital:** N'Djaména**Population:** 13.2 million / 10 people per sq km (27 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,284,000 sq km (495,752 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Arabic*, Sara, Maba**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CONGO****Central Africa****Capital:** Brazzaville**Population:** 4.8 million / 14 people per sq km (36 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 342,000 sq km (132,046 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Monokutuba, Mikongo, Lingala**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CONGO, DEM. REP.****Central Africa****Capital:** Kinshasa**Population:** 79.4 million / 34 people per sq km (88 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,344,858 sq km (905,355 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Tshiluba, Kikongo, Lingala, Kingwana**Currency:** Congolese Franc = 100 centimes**EQUATORIAL GUINEA****Central Africa****Capital:** Malabo**Population:** 759,451 / 27 people per sq km (70 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 28,051 sq km (10,830 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Fang, Bubi**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**GABON****Central Africa****Capital:** Libreville**Population:** 1.7 million / 6 people per sq km (16 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 267,667 sq km (103,346 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Fang, Myene, Bapounou, Nzebi**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**SÃO TOMÉ
AND PRÍNCIPE****West Africa****Capital:** São Tomé**Population:** 197,541 / 204 people per sq km (531 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 964 sq km (372 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, Forro**Currency:** Dobra = 100 centimos**ANGOLA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Luanda**Population:** 25.7 million / 21 people per sq km (54 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,246,700 sq km (481,351 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, Umbundu, Kimbundu, Kikongo**Currency:** Kwanza = 100 centimos**BOTSWANA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Gaborone**Population:** 2.2 million / 4 people per sq km (10 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 581,730 sq km (224,607 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Setswana, Shona, San, Khoikhoi, Ndebele**Currency:** Pula = 100 thebe**COMOROS****Indian Ocean****Capital:** Moroni**Population:** 780,972 / 349 people per sq km (905 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,235 sq km (863 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, French*, Comoran***Currency:** Comoros franc = 100 centimes**LESOTHO****Southern Africa****Capital:** Maseru**Population:** 2 million / 66 people per sq km (171 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 30,355 sq km (11,720 sq miles)**Languages:** Sesotho*, English*, Zulu**Currency:** Loti = 100 lisente**MADAGASCAR****Indian Ocean****Capital:** Antananarivo**Population:** 24.4 million / 42 people per sq km (108 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 587,041 sq km (226,658 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Malagasy***Currency:** Malagasy ariary = 5 iraimbilanja**MALAWI****Southern Africa****Capital:** Lilongwe**Population:** 18.6 million / 157 people per sq km (407 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 118,484 sq km (45,747 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Chichewa*, Chinyanja, Chiyao**Currency:** Malawi kwacha = 100 tambala**MAURITIUS****Indian Ocean****Capital:** Port Louis**Population:** 1.4 million / 686 people per sq km (1,778 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,040 sq km (788 sq miles)**Languages:** English, French, French Creole**Currency:** Mauritian rupee = 100 cents**MOZAMBIQUE****Southern Africa****Capital:** Maputo**Population:** 26 million / 32 people per sq km (84 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 799,380 sq km (308,642 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, Emakhuwa, Xichangana**Currency:** Metical = 100 centavos**NAMIBIA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Windhoek**Population:** 2.4 million / 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 824,292 sq km (318,261 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Oshiwambo languages, Nama, Afrikaans**Currency:** Namibian dollar = 100 cents**SEYCHELLES****Indian Ocean****Capital:** Victoria**Population:** 93,200 / 205 people per sq km (531 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 455 sq km (176 sq miles)**Languages:** Seychellois Creole*, English*, French***Currency:** Seychelles rupee = 100 cents**SOUTH AFRICA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Pretoria (administrative)**Population:** 54.3 million / 45 people per sq km (115 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,219,090 sq km (470,693 sq miles)**Languages:** IsiZulu*, IsiXhosa*, Afrikaans*, English***Currency:** Rand = 100 cents**SWAZILAND****Southern Africa****Capital:** Mbabane**Population:** 1.5 million / 86 people per sq km (224 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 17,364 sq km (6,704 sq miles)**Languages:** Siswati*, English***Currency:** Lilangeni = 100 cents**ZAMBIA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Lusaka**Population:** 15.5 million / 21 people per sq km (53 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 752,618 sq km (290,587 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga**Currency:** Zambian kwacha = 100 ngwee**ZIMBABWE****Southern Africa****Capital:** Harare**Population:** 14.5 million / 37 people per sq km (96 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 390,757 sq km (150,872 sq miles)**Languages:** Shona*, Ndebele*, English**Currency:** US dollar = 100 cents**EUROPE****ICELAND****Northwest Europe****Capital:** Reykjavik**Population:** 335,900 / 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 103,000 sq km (39,768 sq miles)**Languages:** Icelandic*, English**Currency:** Icelandic króna = 100 aurar**DENMARK****Northern Europe****Capital:** Copenhagen**Population:** 5.4 million / 125 people per sq km (325 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 43,094 sq km (16,639 sq miles)**Languages:** Danish*, Faroese, Inuit**Currency:** Danish krone = 100 øre**FINLAND****Northern Europe****Capital:** Helsinki**Population:** 5.5 million / 16 people per sq km (42 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 338,145 sq km (130,559 sq miles)**Languages:** Finnish*, Swedish, Sami**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**NORWAY****Northern Europe****Capital:** Oslo**Population:** 5.3 million / 16 people per sq km (42 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 323,802 sq km (125,021 sq miles)**Languages:** Norwegian* (Bokmål and Nynorsk), Sami, Finnish**Currency:** Norwegian krone = 100 øre**SWEDEN****Northern Europe****Capital:** Stockholm**Population:** 9.9 million / 22 people per sq km (57 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 450,295 sq km (173,860 sq miles)**Languages:** Swedish*, Finnish, Sami**Currency:** Swedish krona = 100 öre

BELGIUM
Northwest Europe
Capital: Brussels
Population: 11.3 million / 338 people per sq km (874 people per sq mile)
Total area: 30,528 sq km (11,787 sq miles)
Languages: Dutch*, French*, German*, Flemish
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



LUXEMBOURG
Northwest Europe
Capital: Luxembourg
Population: 582,300 / 225 people per sq km (583 people per sq mile)
Total area: 2,586 sq km (998 sq miles)
Languages: French*, German*, Luxembourgish*, Portuguese
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



NETHERLANDS
Northwest Europe
Capital: Amsterdam/The Hague
Population: 17 million / 409 people per sq km (1,060 people per sq mile)
Total area: 41,543 sq km (16,040 sq miles)
Languages: Dutch*, Frisian
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



IRELAND
Northwest Europe
Capital: Dublin
Population: 4.9 million / 70 people per sq km (181 people per sq mile)
Total area: 70,273 sq km (27,133 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Irish*
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



UNITED KINGDOM
Northwest Europe
Capital: London
Population: 64.4 million / 264 people per sq km (685 people per sq mile)
Total area: 243,610 sq km (94,058 sq miles)
Languages: English*, Welsh
Currency: Pound sterling = 100 pence



FRANCE
Western Europe
Capital: Paris
Population: 62.8 million / 114 people per sq km (295 people per sq mile)
Total area: 551,500 sq km (212,935 sq miles)
Languages: French*, Provencal, Breton, Catalan, Basque, Corsican
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



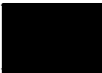
MONACO
Southern Europe
Capital: Monaco
Population: 30,581 / 15,291 people per sq km (39,602 people per sq mile)
Total area: 2 sq km (0.77 sq miles)
Languages: French*, Italian, Monégasque, English
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



ANDORRA
Southwest Europe
Capital: Andorra la Vella
Population: 85,580 / 183 people per sq km (474 people per sq mile)
Total area: 468 sq km (181 sq miles)
Languages: Catalan*, Spanish, French, Portuguese
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



PORTUGAL
Southwest Europe
Capital: Lisbon
Population: 10.8 million / 109 people per sq km (281 people per sq mile)
Total area: 92,090 sq km (35,556 sq miles)
Languages: Portuguese*, Mirandese
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



SPAIN
Southwest Europe
Capital: Madrid
Population: 48.6 million / 96 people per sq km (249 people per sq mile)
Total area: 505,370 sq km (195,125 sq miles)
Languages: Castilian Spanish*, Catalan*, Galician*, Basque*
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



AUSTRIA
Central Europe
Capital: Vienna
Population: 8.7 million / 104 people per sq km (269 people per sq mile)
Total area: 83,871 sq km (32,383 sq miles)
Languages: German*, Turkish, Serbian, Croatian, Slovene, Hungarian (Magyar)
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



GERMANY
Northern Europe
Capital: Berlin
Population: 81 million / 227 people per sq km (588 people per sq mile)
Total area: 357,022 sq km (137,847 sq miles)
Languages: German*
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



LIECHTENSTEIN
Central Europe
Capital: Vaduz
Population: 37,937 / 237 people per sq km (614 people per sq mile)
Total area: 160 sq km (62 sq miles)
Languages: German*, Alemannish dialect, Italian
Currency: Swiss franc = 100 centimes



SLOVENIA
Central Europe
Capital: Ljubljana
Population: 2 million / 99 people per sq km (256 people per sq mile)
Total area: 20,273 sq km (7,827 sq miles)
Languages: Slovene*, Serbo-Croat
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



SWITZERLAND
Central Europe
Capital: Bern
Population: 8.2 million / 199 people per sq km (515 people per sq mile)
Total area: 41,277 sq km (15,937 sq miles)
Languages: German*, French*, Italian*, Romansch*
Currency: Swiss franc = 100 centimes



ITALY
Southern Europe
Capital: Rome
Population: 62 million / 206 people per sq km (533 people per sq mile)
Total area: 301,340 sq km (116,348 sq miles)
Languages: Italian*, German, French, Slovene
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



MALTA
Southern Europe
Capital: Valletta
Population: 415,196 / 1,314 people per sq km (3,403 people per sq mile)
Total area: 316 sq km (122 sq miles)
Languages: Maltese*, English
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



SAN MARINO
Southern Europe
Capital: San Marino
Population: 33,285 / 546 people per sq km (1,413 people per sq mile)
Total area: 61 sq km (24 sq miles)
Language: Italian*
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



VATICAN CITY
Southern Europe
Capital: Vatican City
Population: 1000 / 2,273 people per sq km (5,886 people per sq mile)
Total area: 0.44 sq km (0.17 sq miles)
Languages: Italian*, Latin*
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



CZECH REPUBLIC
Central Europe
Capital: Prague
Population: 10.6 million / 134 people per sq km (348 people per sq mile)
Total area: 78,867 sq km (30,450 sq miles)
Languages: Czech*, Slovak,
Currency: Czech koruna = 100 halers



HUNGARY
Central Europe
Capital: Budapest
Population: 9.9 million / 106 people per sq km (276 people per sq mile)
Total area: 93,028 sq km (35,918 sq miles)
Languages: Hungarian*
Currency: Forint = 100 fillér



POLAND
Northern Europe
Capital: Warsaw
Population: 38.5 million / 123 people per sq km (319 people per sq mile)
Total area: 312,685 sq km (120,728 sq miles)
Languages: Polish*, Silesian
Currency: Zloty = 100 groszy



SLOVAKIA
Central Europe
Capital: Bratislava
Population: 5.5 million / 112 people per sq km (291 people per sq mile)
Total area: 49,035 sq km (18,933 sq miles)
Languages: Slovak*, Hungarian (Magyar), Romany
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



ALBANIA
Southeast Europe
Capital: Tirana
Population: 3 million / 104 people per sq km (270 people per sq mile)
Total area: 28,748 sq km (11,100 sq miles)
Languages: Albanian*, Greek, Macedonian
Currency: Lek = 100 qindarkas



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Southeast Europe
Capital: Sarajevo
Population: 3.9 million / 76 people per sq km (197 people per sq mile)
Total area: 51,197 sq km (19,767 sq miles)
Languages: Bosnian*, Croatian*, Serbian*
Currency: Marka = 100 pfenigs



CROATIA
Southeast Europe
Capital: Zagreb
Population: 4.5 million / 80 people per sq km (206 people per sq mile)
Total area: 56,594 sq km (21,851 sq miles)
Languages: Croatian*, Serbian, Hungarian
Currency: Kuna = 100 lipa



MACEDONIA
Southeast Europe
Capital: Skopje
Population: 2.1 million / 82 people per sq km (212 people per sq mile)
Total area: 25,713 sq km (9,928 sq miles)
Languages: Macedonian*, Albanian, Turkish
Currency: Macedonian denar = 100 deni



MONTENEGRO
Southern Europe
Capital: Podgorica
Population: 644,578 / 47 people per sq km (121 people per sq mile)
Total area: 13,812 sq km (5,322 sq miles)
Languages: Montenegrin*, Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



SERBIA
Southern Europe
Capital: Belgrade
Population: 7.1 million / 92 people per sq km (238 people per sq mile)
Total area: 77,474 sq km (29,913 sq miles)
Languages: Serbian*, Hungarian
Currency: Serbian dinar = 100 para



CYPRUS
Southeast Europe
Capital: Nicosia
Population: 1.2 million / 130 people per sq km (336 people per sq mile)
Total area: 9,250 sq km (3,751 sq miles)
Languages: Greek*, Turkish*, English
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



BULGARIA
Southeast Europe
Capital: Sofia
Population: 7.2 million / 65 people per sq km (168 people per sq mile)
Total area: 110,879 sq km (42,811 sq miles)
Languages: Bulgarian*, Turkish, Roma
Currency: Lev = 100 stotinki



GREECE
Southeast Europe
Capital: Athens
Population: 10.7 million / 81 people per sq km (210 people per sq mile)
Total area: 131,957 sq km (50,949 sq miles)
Languages: Greek*
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



BELARUS
Eastern Europe
Capital: Minsk
Population: 9.6 million / 46 people per sq km (120 people per sq mile)
Total area: 207,600 sq km (80,154 sq miles)
Languages: Belarussian*, Russian*
Currency: New Belarussian rouble = 100 copecks



ESTONIA
Northeast Europe
Capital: Tallinn
Population: 1.3 million / 29 people per sq km (74 people per sq mile)
Total area: 45,228 sq km (17,463 sq miles)
Languages: Estonian*, Russian
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



LATVIA
Northeast Europe
Capital: Riga
Population: 2 million / 31 people per sq km (80 people per sq mile)
Total area: 64,589 sq km (24,938 sq miles)
Languages: Latvian*, Russian
Currency: Euro = 100 cents



LITHUANIA
Northeast Europe

Capital: Vilnius

Population: 2.8 million / 43 people per sq km (111 people per sq mile)

Total area: 65,300 sq km (25,213 sq miles)

Languages: Lithuanian*, Russian

Currency: Euro = 100 cents



MOLDOVA
Southeast Europe

Capital: Chisinau

Population: 3.5 million / 103 people per sq km (268 people per sq mile)

Total area: 33,851 sq km (13,070 sq miles)

Languages: Moldovan*, Romanian, Russian

Currency: Moldovan leu = 100 bani



ROMANIA
Southeast Europe

Capital: Bucharest

Population: 21.6 million / 91 people per sq km (235 people per sq mile)

Total area: 237,500 sq km (91,699 sq miles)

Languages: Romanian*, Hungarian, Romany

Currency: Romanian leu = 100 bani



UKRAINE
Eastern Europe

Capital: Kiev

Population: 44.2 million / 73 people per sq km (190 people per sq mile)

Total area: 603,550 sq km (233,031 sq miles)

Languages: Ukrainian*, Russian

Currency: Hryvnia = 100 kopykas



RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Europe/Asia

Capital: Moscow

Population: 142.4 million
8 people per sq km /
(22 people per sq mile)

Total area: 17,098,242 sq km
(6,601,668 sq miles)

Languages: Russian*, Tatar

Currency: Russian Rouble = 100 kopeks



ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN
Central Asia

Capital: Astana

Population: 18.4 million / 6 people per sq km (15 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,724,900 sq km (1,052,090 sq miles)

Languages: Kazakh*, Russian

Currency: Tenge = 100 tiin



ARMENIA
Southwest Asia

Capital: Yerevan

Population: 3.1 million / 104 people per sq km (270 people per sq mile)

Total area: 29,743 sq km (11,484 sq miles)

Languages: Armenian*, Russian, Kurdish

Currency: Dram = 100 luma



AZERBAIJAN
Southwest Asia

Capital: Baku

Population: 9.8 million / 113 people per sq km (293 people per sq mile)

Total area: 86,600 sq km (33,436 sq miles)

Languages: Azeri*, Russian

Currency: Manat = 100 qopiks



GEORGIA
Southwest Asia

Capital: Tbilisi

Population: 4.9 million / 70 people per sq km (182 people per sq mile)

Total area: 69,700 sq km (26,911 sq miles)

Languages: Georgian*, Russian

Currency: Lari = 100 tetri



TURKEY
Asia/Europe

Capital: Ankara

Population: 80.3 million / 103 people per sq km (265 people per sq mile)

Total area: 783,562 sq km (302,535 sq miles)

Languages: Turkish*, Kurdish

Currency: Turkish lira = 100 kurus



ISRAEL
Southwest Asia

Capital: Jerusalem (disputed)

Population: 8.2 million / 395 people per sq km (1,023 people per sq mile)

Total area: 20,770 sq km (8,019 sq miles)

Languages: Hebrew*, Arabic, English

Currency: Shekel = 100 agorot



JORDAN
Southwest Asia

Capital: Amman

Population: 8.2 million / 55 people per sq km (143 people per sq mile)

Total area: 89,342 sq km (34,495 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*

Currency: Jordanian dinar = 1,000 fils



LEBANON
Southwest Asia

Capital: Beirut

Population: 6.2 million / 596 people per sq km (1,544 people per sq mile)

Total area: 10,400 sq km (4,015 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, French, Armenian, Assyrian

Currency: Lebanese pound = 100 piastres



SYRIA

Southwest Asia

Capital: Damascus

Population: 17.2 million / 93 people per sq km (241 people per sq mile)

Total area: 185,180 sq km (71,498 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Kurdish, Armenian, Circassian, Aramaic

Currency: Syrian pound = 100 piastres



BAHRAIN
Southwest Asia

Capital: Manama

Population: 1.3 million / 1,772 people per sq km (4,590 people per sq mile)

Total area: 720 sq km (293 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, English, Urdu, Farsi

Currency: Bahraini dinar = 1,000 fils



IRAN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Tehran

Population: 82.8 million / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,648,195 sq km (636,372 sq miles)

Languages: Farsi (Persian)*, Azeri, Gilaki, Balochi, Mazandarani, Kurdish, Arabic

Currency: Iranian rial = 10 tomans



IRAQ

Southwest Asia

Capital: Baghdad

Population: 38.2 million / 87 people per sq km (226 people per sq mile)

Total area: 438,317 sq km (169,235 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Kurdish*, Armenian, Assyrian, Turkic languages

Currency: Iraqi dinar = 100 fils



KUWAIT

Southwest Asia

Capital: Kuwait City

Population: 2.8 million / 157 people per sq km (407 people per sq mile)

Total area: 17,820 sq km (6,880 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, English

Currency: Kuwaiti dinar = 1,000 fils



OMAN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Muscat

Population: 3.4 million / 11 people per sq km (28 people per sq mile)

Total area: 309,500 sq km (119,499 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Baluchi

Currency: Omani rial = 1000 baizas



QATAR

Southwest Asia

Capital: Doha

Population: 2.3 million / 198 people per sq km (514 people per sq mile)

Total area: 11,586 sq km (4,473 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*

Currency: Qatar riyal = 100 dirhams



SAUDI ARABIA
Southwest Asia

Capital: Riyadh

Population: 28.1 million / 13 people per sq km (34 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,149,690 sq km (830,000 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*

Currency: Saudi riyal = 100 halalas



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Southwest Asia

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Population: 5.9 million / 71 people per sq km (183 people per sq mile)

Total area: 82,600 sq km (32,278 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*, Farsi, English, Indian and Pakistani languages

Currency: UAE dirham = 100 fils



YEMEN

Southwest Asia

Capital: Sana

Population: 27.4 million / 52 people per sq km (134 people per sq mile)

Total area: 527,968 sq km (203,850 sq miles)

Languages: Arabic*

Currency: Yemeni rial = 100 fils



AFGHANISTAN

Central Asia

Capital: Kabul

Population: 32 million / 50 people per sq km (129 people per sq mile)

Total area: 652,230 sq km (251,827 sq miles)

Languages: Persian*, Pashto*, Uzbek, Turkmen

Currency: Afghani = 100 puls



KYRGYZSTAN

Central Asia

Capital: Bishkek

Population: 5.7 million / 29 people per sq km (74 people per sq mile)

Total area: 199,951 sq km (77,202 sq miles)

Languages: Krygyz*, Russian*, Uzbek

Currency: Som = 100 tiyin



TAJIKISTAN
Central Asia

Capital: Dushanbe

Population: 8.3 million / 58 people per sq km (149 people per sq mile)

Total area: 144,100 sq km (55,637 sq miles)

Languages: Tajik*, Russian

Currency: Somoni = 100 diram



TURKMENISTAN
Central Asia

Capital: Ashgabat

Population: 5.3 million / 11 people per sq km (28 people per sq mile)

Total area: 488,100 sq km (188,455 sq miles)

Languages: Turkmen*, Russian, Uzbek

Currency: Manat = 100 tenge



UZBEKISTAN
Central Asia

Capital: Tashkent

Population: 29.5 million / 66 people per sq km (171 people per sq mile)

Total area: 447,400 sq km (172,741 sq miles)

Languages: Uzbek*, Russian

Currency: Som = 100 tiyin



CHINA

East Asia

Capital: Beijing

Population: 1.37 billion / 143 people per sq km (370 people per sq mile)

Total area: 9,596,960 sq km (3,705,960 sq miles)

Languages: Mandarin*, Wu, Cantonese, Xiang, Min, Hakka, Gan

Currency: Yuan (Renminbi) = 100 fen



MONGOLIA
East Asia

Capital: Ulan Bator

Population: 3 million / 2 people per sq km (4 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,566,116 sq km (603,909 sq miles)

Languages: Khalkha Mongolian*, Kazakh, Chinese, Russian

Currency: Tögrög = 100 möngös



NORTH KOREA
East Asia

Capital: Pyongyang

Population: 25.1 million / 208 people per sq km (539 people per sq mile)

Total area: 120,538 sq km (46,540 sq miles)

Languages: Korean*

Currency: North Korean won = 100 chon



SOUTH KOREA
East Asia

Capital: Seoul

Population: 50.9 million / 510 people per sq km (1,322 people per sq mile)

Total area: 99,720 sq km (38,502 sq miles)

Languages: Korean*

Currency: South Korean won = 100 jeon



TAIWAN
East Asia

Capital: Taipei

Population: 22.5 million / 625 people per sq km (1,620 people per sq mile)

Total area: 35,980 sq km (13,892 sq miles)

Languages: Mandarin Chinese*, Taiwanese (Min), Hakka Chinese

Currency: Taiwan dollar = 100 cents



JAPAN
East Asia

Capital: Tokyo

Population: 127.7 million / 335 people per sq km (868 people per sq mile)

Total area: 377,915 sq km (145,914 sq miles)

Languages: Japanese

Currency: Yen = 100 sen



INDIA

South Asia


Capital: New Delhi

Population: 1.27 billion / 386 people per sq km (1,001 people per sq mile)

Total area: 3,287,263 sq km (1,269,219 sq miles)

Languages: Hindi*, English*, Urdu, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, other

Currency: Indian rupee = 100 paise



SRI LANKA

South Asia


Capital: Colombo

Population: 22.2 milllion / 338 people per sq km (876 people per sq mile)

Total area: 65,610 sq km (25,332 sq miles)

Languages: Sinhalese*, Tamil, English

Currency: Sri Lanka rupee = 100 cents



MALDIVES

Indian Ocean


Capital: Malé

Population: 393,000 / 1,319 people per sq km (3,415 people per sq mile)

Total area: 298 sq km (115 sq miles)

Languages: Dhivehi*, English

Currency: Rufiyaa = 100 laari



PAKISTAN

South Asia


Capital: Islamabad

Population: 202 million / 254 people per sq km (657 people per sq mile)

Total area: 796,095 sq km (307,374 sq miles)

Languages: Urdu*, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtu, Balochi

Currency: Pakistani rupee = 100 paise



BANGLADESH

South Asia


Capital: Dhaka

Population: 169 million / 1,138 people per sq km (2,948 people per sq mile)

Total area: 148,460 sq km (57,321 sq miles)

Languages: Bengali*, Urdu, Chakma

Currency: Taka = 100 poisha



BHUTAN

South Asia


Capital: Thimphu

Population: 741,919 / 19 people per sq km (50 people per sq mile)

Total area: 38,394 sq km (14,824 sq miles)

Languages: Dzongkha*, Sharchhopka, Lhotshamkha

Currency: Ngultrum = 100 chetrum



NEPAL

South Asia


Capital: Kathmandu

Population: 29 million / 197 people per sq km (510 people per sq mile)

Total area: 147,181 sq km (56,827 sq miles)

Languages: Nepali*, Maithili, Bhojpuri

Currency: Nepalese rupee = 100 paise



CAMBODIA

Southeast Asia

Capital: Phnom Penh

Population: 15.7 million / 87 people per sq km (225 people per sq mile)

Total area: 181,035 sq km (69,898 sq miles)

Languages: Khmer*, French, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cham

Currency: Riel = 100 sen



LAOS

Southeast Asia


Capital: Vientiane

Population: 7 million / 30 people per sq km (77 people per sq mile)

Total area: 236,800 sq km (91,428 sq miles)

Languages: Lao*, various local dialects, French

Currency: New kip = 100 att



MYANMAR (BURMA)

Southeast Asia


Capital: Nay Pyi Taw

Population: 56.9 million / 84 people per sq km (218 people per sq mile)

Total area: 676,578 sq km (261,228 sq miles)

Languages: Burmese*

Currency: Kyat = 100 pyas



THAILAND

Southeastern Asia


Capital: Bangkok

Population: 68.2 million / 133 people per sq km (344 people per sq mile)

Total area: 513,120 sq km (198,117 sq miles)

Languages: Thai*, Burmese

Currency: Baht = 100 satangs



VIETNAM


Southeast Asia

Capital: Hanoi

Population: 95.3 million / 288 people per sq km (745 people per sq mile)

Languages: Vietnamese*, Chinese, Khmer

Currency: Đông = 10 hao = 100 xu



BRUNEI

Southeast Asia

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

Population: 429,646 / 75 people per sq km (193 people per sq mile)

Total area: 5,765 sq km (2,226 sq miles)

Languages: Malay*, English, Chinese

Currency: Brunei dollar = 100 cents



EAST TIMOR

Southeast Asia

Capital: Dili

Population: 1.2 million / 81 people per sq km (210 people per sq mile)

Total area: 14,874 sq km (3,756 sq miles)

Languages: Tetum*, Indonesian, Portuguese*

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents



INDONESIA

Southeast Asia


Capital: Jakarta

Population: 258 million / 135 people per sq km (351 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,904,569 sq km (735,358 sq miles)

Languages: Bahasa Indonesia*, more than 700 other languages are used

Currency: Rupiah = 100 sen



MALAYSIA

Southeast Asia

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Population: 31 million / 94 people per sq km (243 people per sq mile)

Total area: 329,847 sq km (127,355 sq miles)

Languages: Bahasa Malaysia*, Chinese*, English, Tamil

Currency: Ringgit = 100 sen



PHILIPPINES

Southeast Asia


Capital: Manila

Population: 102.6 million / 342 people per sq km (886 people per sq mile)

Total area: 300,000 sq km (115,830 sq miles)

Languages: Filipino*, English*, Cebuano

Currency: Philippine Peso = 100 centavos



SINGAPORE

Southeast Asia


Capital: Singapore

Population: 5.8 million / 8,321 people per sq km (21,552 people per sq mile)

Total area: 697 sq km (269 sq miles)

Languages: Malay*, Mandarin*, English*, Tamil*

Currency: Singapore dollar = 100 cents



AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

FIJI

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Suva

Population: 915,303 / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)

Total area: 18,274 sq km (7,055 sq miles)

Languages: Fijian*, English*, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telegu

Currency: Fijian dollar = 100 cents



KIRIBATI

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Tarawa Atoll

Population: 106,925 / 132 people per sq km (342 people per sq mile)

Total area: 811 sq km (313 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Kiribati

Currency: Australian dollar = 100 cents



MARSHALL ISLANDS

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Majuro

Population: 73,376 / 405 people per sq km (1,050 people per sq mile)

Total area: 181 sq km (70 sq miles)

Languages: Marshallese*, English*

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents



MICRONESIA

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Palikir

Population: 104,700 / 189 people per sq km (490 people per sq mile)

Total area: 702 sq km (271 sq miles)

Languages: English, Trukese, Pohnpelian, Mortlockese, Kosrean

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents



NAURU

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: No official capital

Population: 9,591 / 457 people per sq km (1,183 people per sq mile)

Total area: 21 sq km (8 sq miles)

Languages: Nauruan*, English, Kiribati, Chinese

Currency: Australian dollar = 100 cents



PALAU

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Melekeok

Population: 21,347 / 47 people per sq km (121 people per sq mile)

Total area: 459 sq km (177 sq miles)

Languages: Palauan, English*, Sonsorolese*

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Port Moresby

Population: 6.8 million / 15 people per sq km (38 people per sq mile)

Total area: 462,840 sq km (178,703 sq miles)

Languages: Tok Pisin*, English*, Hiri Motu*, over 800 native languages

Currency: Kina = 100 toea



SAMOA

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Apia

Population: 198,930 / 70 people per sq km (182 people per sq mile)

Total area: 2,831 sq km (1,093 sq miles)

Languages: Samoan*, English

Currency: Tala = 100 sene



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Honiara

Population: 635,000 / 22 people per sq km (57 people per sq mile)

Total area: 28,896 sq km (11,157 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Melanesian Pidgin, 120 indigenous languages

Currency: Solomon Islands dollar = 100 cents



TONGA

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Nuku'alofa

Population: 106,500 / 141 people per sq km (366 people per sq mile)

Total area: 747 sq km (288 sq miles)

Languages: Tongan*, English

Currency: Pa'anga = 100 seniti



TUVALU

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Funafuti Atoll

Population: 10,900 / 419 people per sq km (1,086 people per sq mile)

Total area: 26 sq km (10 sq miles)

Languages: Tuvaluan*, English*, Kiribati

Currency: Australian/Tuvaluan dollar = 100 cents



VANUATU

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Port Vila

Population: 277,600 / 23 people per sq km (59 people per sq mile)

Total area: 12,189 sq km (4,706 sq miles)

Languages: Bislama*, English*, French*

Currency: Vatu



AUSTRALIA

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Canberra

Population: 22.8 million / 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile)

Total area: 7,741,220 sq km (2,988,902 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Mandarin, Greek, Arabic, Italian, Aboriginal languages

Currency: Australian dollar = 100 cents



NEW ZEALAND

Australasia and Oceania


Capital: Wellington

Population: 4.5 million / 17 people per sq km (43 people per sq mile)

Total area: 268,838 sq km (103,799 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Maori*

Currency: New Zealand dollar = 100 cents



Glossary

Alkaline

Describes something that contains high levels of salts, such as a lake.

Amerindian

The peoples native to America, who lived there long before the arrival of European explorers and settlers.

Amphibious

Term used to describe a cold-blooded animal that is able to live both on land and in water, such as frogs, toads, and salamanders.

Aquatic

Animal or plant that lives in water.

Arachnid

Type of animal, such as a spider or a scorpion, that has a two-part body and four pairs of legs.

Archipelago

A group, or chain, of islands.

Arthropod

An animal without a backbone but with a hard outer shell, and with legs that can bend in many places, such as crabs, spiders, and centipedes.

Asteroid

A small body of rock or metal that circles the Sun, mainly between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

Atmosphere

The layer of gases, including oxygen and nitrogen, that surrounds Earth and protects us from radiation and debris coming in from space.

Atoll

A circular, or horseshoe-shaped, coral reef enclosing a shallow area of water (lagoon).

Biome

A large area that has a particular climate, type of vegetation, and species of animals living in it.

Birth rate

The number of children born in an area, usually measured in the number of live births per 1,000 individuals within a population, or the average number of children per woman in that area.

Boreal forest

A type of coniferous forest – see taiga.

Broadleaf forest

A type of forest that can be temperate (with trees such as oak) or tropical (with various type of palm trees).

Caldera

A huge crater in a volcano, often formed by the collapse of the volcano's cone during an eruption.

Canyon

A steep valley that has been carved through rock by a river.

Civil war

A war between people living in the same country, because of political, religious, or racial differences.

Climate

What the weather is usually like, over a long time, in a specific area.

Climate change

When the climate is changing, due to Earth's atmosphere getting hotter because of human activity, such as pollution. Higher temperatures will affect weather systems, which in turn will affect the people, animals, and plants living in an area.

Coniferous

A type of tree or shrub, such as pine or fir, that has needles instead of leaves. They are found in both temperate and boreal forests.

Continent

One of the seven large landmasses on Earth: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia and Oceania, and Antarctica.

Crust

The hard, thin, outer shell of Earth.

Deciduous forest

A type of broadleaf forest found in temperate regions.

Deforestation

The cutting down of trees for timber or to clear the land for farming or for roads. It can lead to soil erosion.

Delta

A low-lying, fan-shaped area at a river mouth, usually where it flows into the sea. It is formed by layers of sediment brought along by the river.

Democracy

A system of ruling a country in which the people have a say, usually in the form of voting for who will be the country's leader (such as a president or prime minister).

Desert

A very arid (dry) region that has little or no precipitation. Some are cold deserts, such as the barren areas of rock and ice in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Dictatorship

The rule of a country by a person who often came to, or held on to, power without the vote of their people; the opposite of democracy.

Disputed territory

An area, or country, that wants to be independent from another, but that has not been officially recognized by the original nation, or the United Nations (UN).

Diversity

The variety of plants and animals in an ecosystem; or of different people living in an area.

Dormant

Describes a volcano which is not extinct but that has not erupted for a long time, although is likely to do so in the future.

Ecosystem

How all living things in an area interact with each other, the climate, and the various habitats there.

Elevation

The height of land above sea level.

Endemic

An animal or plant that is native and particular to one specific area.

Equator

The 0° line of latitude. It divides Earth into the northern and southern hemispheres.

Erosion

The wearing down of the land surface by running water, waves, ice, wind, and weather.

Evolution

How animals and plants change and develop over a long time, in order to adapt and survive.

Extinct

Refers to an animal that no longer exists, due to over-hunting or loss of habitat.

Fjord

A long, narrow, and deep inlet of sea situated between steep, coastal mountain sides.

Geyser

A fountain of hot water that erupts regularly as underground streams come into contact with hot rocks.

Glaciation

When ice sheets and glaciers grow and how that changes the landscape.

Glacier

A mass of ice made up of compacted and frozen snow, which moves slowly down a mountain, eroding and depositing rocks as it flows.

Gravity

The pulling force that attracts objects to each other – it keeps us on Earth, and planets in their orbits.

Habitat

The environment or place in which an animal or plant normally lives.

Hemisphere

The northern hemisphere is the half of Earth that sits above the Equator; the southern hemisphere is the half of the globe that falls below it.

Hominin

Humans, including the very first type of human ancestor, that first appeared in Africa about 7 million years ago.

Hurricane

A violent, tropical storm, also known as a cyclone in the Indian Ocean, and as a typhoon in the Pacific Ocean.

Iceberg

A large, floating mass of ice that has broken off from a glacier, or ice shelf, with most of its body underwater.

Ice sheet

A permanent layer of ice that covers large areas of land, such as in Antarctica or Greenland.

Ice shelf

A permanent layer of ice that floats on water, but which is partly attached to land.

Inca empire

A powerful ancient empire located in the Andes mountains of South America, which was conquered by the Spanish in the 16th century.

Indigenous

A plant, animal, or people native to a geographical area.

Infrastructure

A term used to describe the things that make a country or region function, such as roads, transport, communications, schools, and industry.

Interstellar

Means “between stars”.

Invertebrate

Animals that do not have a backbone, such as insects, crabs, and worms.

Isthmus

A narrow strip of land with water on either side that connects two larger landmasses.

Lagoon

A shallow stretch of coastal salt-water that is partly sheltered behind a barrier, such as a sandbank or coral reef; see atoll.

Latitude

A series of imaginary lines that run parallel to the Equator, measured in degrees north or south of it. The Equator is 0°, the North Pole 90°N, and the South Pole 90°S.

Longitude

As latitude, but giving the distance for how far east or west something is from 0° longitude in Greenwich, London, in the United Kingdom.

Mammal

Warm-blooded animals that give birth to babies that feed on milk.

Mangrove

Trees and shrubs that grow along muddy shores and river banks, often in salty water, and with many of their roots exposed.

Marsupial

A type of mammal, such as a kangaroo, that keeps its young in a pouch on its stomach until they can manage for themselves.

Mayan empire

An ancient civilization in South America that existed from around 2,000 BCE to the 16th century, when they were conquered by the Spanish.

Metropolitan area

The built-up, often densely populated area surrounding a city, including suburbs and nearby urban areas.

Migration

The movement of animals or people from one place to another, often to find food or to breed.

Molten

Rock or metal that has been heated to liquid form; lava is molten rock.

Monsoon

A seasonal wind in South and East Asia that brings heavy rains.

Montane

The type of biome (climate, plants, and wildlife) found in mountains.

Nomad

People who move around a region to find fresh pasture for their herds.

Oasis

A fertile, green area in a desert that usually gets its water from underground sources.

Peninsula

A thin strip of land that sticks out from the mainland into the sea.

Plain

A flat, low-lying region of land.

Plateau

A flat area of land on a highland.

Population density

Describes how crowded or sparsely populated an area is, based on how many people live per square kilometre or square mile – it is worked out by dividing a country’s (or city’s) population by its area.

Precipitation

The moisture that falls from the atmosphere onto Earth, in the form of rain, snow, hail, or sleet.

Prevailing winds

Commonly occurring winds that blow in the same direction, and which influence the climate of a particular region.

Rainforest

Dense forests growing in tropical zones, with high rainfall, temperature, and humidity.

Rift valley

A long depression in Earth’s crust, formed by the sinking of rocks between two faults or plates.

River basin

The land into which water (usually in the form of rivers) gathers.

Rural

Relating to unbuilt areas, usually countryside; the opposite of urban.

Sea ice

The ice that forms when ocean water in the polar regions freezes.

Steppe

Large areas of dry grassland in the northern hemisphere – especially in southeast Europe and central Asia.

Subcontinent

A large landmass that is part of a continent, such as India (subcontinent) in Asia (continent).

Sub-tropical

An area or climate that is nearly tropical, located to the north or south of the tropics.

Taiga

The Russian word for a coniferous forest.

Tectonic plates

Huge interlocking plates that make up Earth’s surface. A plate boundary is the point at which plates meet, and where earthquakes often occur.

Temperate

The mild, variable climate found in areas between the tropics and cold polar regions.

Tetrapod

Any vertebrate (animal that has a spine) with four limbs (arms or legs).

Time zone

The world is split into 39 different time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UTC.

Trade wind

A prevailing wind that blows towards the Equator, either from northeast or southeast.

Trench

A deep valley in the ocean floor, formed when tectonic plates collide.

Tributary

A stream or small river that feeds into a larger one.

Tropical

Referring to the climate or biomes in the areas just north and south of the Equator. These areas are characterized by heavy rainfall, high temperatures, and no clearly defined seasons.

Tundra

A biome in the very cold, northern parts of Europe, North America, and Asia, in which the ground never thaws beneath the surface (called permafrost).

United Nations (UN)

An organization of 193 states that work together to keep peace in the world, and make it better for all people who live here.

UNESCO

Part of the UN, UNESCO works for peace by helping people understand each other through their cultures. They have made a list of heritage sites that should be protected, ranging from natural landscapes to historic buildings.

Urban

Built up; relating to living in a town or a city.

Urbanization

A term that refers to both the growth of towns and cities, and to the number of people that move from rural to urban areas.

Index

A

Afghanistan 98, 108
Africa 13–15, 56–75
Alaska 18, 20, 23, 24, 28, 30
Albania 79, 89, 94–95
Aleutian Islands 28
Algeria 58, 64, 68, 74
Alps 86–87, 90–91, 92
Amazon River and Basin 40–41, 44, 46–47, 50, 53, 54, 144
Andes 40, 46, 49, 50
Angel Falls 42, 48
Angola 59, 65
Antarctica 136–137, 147
Arctic 138–139
Argentina 39, 43, 48–49, 51, 55
Asia 95–115
Atacama Desert 51
Atlantic Ocean 12–13, 144–145
Australasia 116–133
Australia 118, 120, 122–123, 124, 125, 128–133
Austria 78–79, 89

B

Bahrain 98, 104
Baikal, Lake 103, 113
Bangladesh 98, 104
Barbados 19, 29
Belarus 79, 89
Belgium 78, 88, 94, 95
Bhutan 98, 106
biomes 32, 52, 72, 93, 112, 132
Blanc, Mont 86
Bolívar, Simón 38
Bolivia 39, 40, 45, 48–49
Borneo 100, 101, 113
Bosnia & Herzegovina 79, 89, 91
Botswana 59, 69, 75
Brahmaputra River 107, 147
Brazil 39, 41, 42, 43, 44–45, 48–49, 51, 54, 55
bridges 23, 28, 43, 62, 83, 103, 123
Buenos Aires, Argentina 55

buildings 23, 28, 29, 43, 48–49, 82, 88–89, 102, 108–109, 122, 128–129
Bulgaria 79, 89
Burma see Myanmar
bushfires 130

C

Cairo, Egypt 62, 63, 64
Cambodia 99, 109
Cameroon 58, 70
Canada 18–25, 28–35
Caribbean 19, 21, 29, 31, 33, 35
Cayman Islands 19, 35
Central African Republic 59, 68
Central America 16–35
Chad 58, 68
Chichen Itza, Mexico 28
Chile 39, 42, 43, 45, 49, 50, 51, 55
China 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 108–109
cities
 Africa 63, 64, 65, 74–75
 Americas 23, 24–25, 43, 44–45, 54
 Arctic 139
 Asia 103, 104, 106, 114, 115
 Australasia 123, 124–125
 Europe 84–85, 94–95

climate 30–31, 50–51, 70–71, 90–91, 110–111, 130–131, 137
Colombia 38, 40, 43, 44, 48, 50
Colorado River 26–27
Comoros Islands 65
Congo Basin 60–61
Congo River 69
Croatia 79, 89
Cuba 19, 25, 29
Czech Republic 78–79, 89

D

Danube, River 81
Dead Sea 100
Democratic Republic of Congo 59, 63, 65, 69

Denali 20
Denmark 78, 88
deserts 26–27, 51, 60–61, 67, 68, 70–71, 106, 114
Djibouti 59, 63
Dominican Republic 19, 29
Dubai, UAE 108

E

early earth 4–15
Ecuador 38, 44, 48, 54
Egypt 59, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68–69, 71
El Salvador 19, 25
Elbrus, Mount 81
Erebus, Mount 137
Estonia 79, 89
Ethiopia 58–59, 61, 65, 69, 71
Europe 76–95
European Union 79
Everest, Mount 106

F

Falkland Islands 39, 45
Fiji 119, 121, 125, 133
Finland 78–79, 88–89
Fish River Canyon 68–69
France 78, 83, 84, 86, 88, 94
French Guiana 38, 44
French Polynesia 119

G

Galápagos Islands 40, 48
Gambia 58, 68
Ganges, River 106, 147
Germany 78, 88, 94
Ghana 58, 59, 68, 74
glaciers 23, 42, 83, 86, 102, 123, 127
Grand Canyon 26–27
Great Barrier Reef 129
Great Rift Valley 61, 66–67
Greece 79, 81, 85, 89, 91
Greenland 18–19, 20–21, 24, 28–29, 31, 34–35
Guatemala 19, 25

Guyana 38, 54

H

Haiti 19, 35
Havana, Cuba 25
Hawaii 18, 22, 24, 28, 32, 34, 143
Himalayas 14, 100, 106–107
Hong Kong 103, 109, 114
Hungary 79, 89
hurricanes 31

I

icebergs 144
Iceland 80, 83, 84, 88, 94, 145
India 98, 100, 104, 108, 110–111
Indian Ocean 110, 146–147
Indonesia 98–99, 100–101, 102, 103, 104–105, 109
Iran 98, 108
Iraq 98, 108
Ireland 78, 88, 92
Israel 98, 108, 110
Istanbul, Turkey 85
Italy 78–79, 82, 83, 85, 87, 88–89, 94–95

J

Japan 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 109, 113, 115

K

Karakorum Range 106
Kathmandu, Nepal 106
Kazakhstan 98, 108
Kenya 59, 69, 75
Kilimanjaro, Mount 61, 67
Kiribati 119

L

Lagos, Nigeria 64, 74
lakes 22, 35, 40, 59, 63, 66, 67, 80, 82, 86, 87, 103, 120, 123, 126, 127, 137, 138
languages 22, 42, 62, 82
Laos 99, 103

Lapland 95
 Latvia 79, 89
 Liberia 58
 Libya 58, 68, 70
 Lithuania 79, 89
 Luxembourg 78, 94

M

Macedonia 79, 89
 Madagascar 59, 63, 69, 72–73, 75
 Malawi 59, 69
 Malaysia 99, 103, 108–109
 Maldives 98, 146–147
 Mali 58, 68, 74
 Malta 79, 85, 91
 Manaus, Brazil 54
 Marshall Islands 118, 120
 Mauna Loa 143
 Mauritania 58, 64, 68
 Mexico 18–19, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30–31, 35
 Micronesia 121
 Moldova 79, 89
 Monaco 78, 84, 94
 Mongolia 99, 105, 109
 monsoons 110, 111
 Montenegro 79, 89
 Montserrat 19, 35
 Morocco 58, 64, 68, 70
 mountains
 Africa 61, 66, 67, 69
 Americas 20–21, 28, 40–41, 43, 46, 50
 Asia 100, 103, 106–107
 Australasia 120–121, 123, 126–127
 early 9, 10, 14
 Europe 80–81, 83, 86–87
 Polar 136
 underwater 142, 144
 Murmansk, Russia 139
 Myanmar (Burma) 98, 108

N

Namib Desert 61
 Namibia 59, 65, 69
 Nauru 118, 119
 Nepal 98, 106
 Netherlands 78, 84, 88, 94
 New Caledonia 118, 129, 142

New Guinea 99, 101, 118, 120, 121
 see also Papua New Guinea
 New York, USA 23, 25, 29
 New Zealand 119, 121, 123, 124, 125, 126–127, 129, 131, 133, 142
 Niagara Falls 23, 29
 Niger 58, 64, 68
 Niger, River 60, 74
 Nigeria 58, 64, 65, 68, 74
 Nile, River 61, 72, 75
 North America 12–14, 16–35
 North Korea 99, 115
 Norway 78, 82, 83, 84, 88

O

Oceania 116–133
 oceans 140–147
 Okavango Delta 61
 Oman 98, 114
 Orinoco, River 40

P

Pacific Ocean 111, 142–143
 Oceania 116–133
 Painted Desert 26–27
 Pakistan 98, 104, 108, 114
 Palau 118, 128
 Panama 19, 21
 Panama Canal 29, 144
 Pangea 10–12
 Papua New Guinea 118, 123, 124, 128, 131
 Paraguay 39, 49
 Patagonia 41, 55
 Peru 38, 43, 44, 46, 48, 49, 54
 Philippines 99, 109, 113, 115
 Poland 79, 89
 Polar regions 134–139
 Portugal 78, 83, 88, 94
 Prince Edward Islands 146

R

railways 22, 42, 63, 82, 83, 102, 103, 115, 122, 128
 rainforests 46–47, 50, 53, 60–61, 113
 Red Sea 66
 Riga, Latvia 89
 Ring of Fire 143

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 39, 45, 48
 rivers 26–27, 40, 44, 46–47, 60, 61, 69, 81, 87, 106, 107, 139, 147
 Romania 79, 89, 90–91, 95
 Russia 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84–85, 89, 91, 95, 99, 103, 109, 111, 139
 Rwanda 59, 65

S

Sahara Desert 60–61, 68, 70–71
 Saint Helena 145
 São Paulo, Brazil 44
 Saudi Arabia 98, 108
 Senegal 58, 64, 68
 Serbia 79, 89
 Serengeti 73, 75
 Seychelles 59, 146
 Shanghai, China 105
 Siberia 8, 10, 100–101, 110–111, 112–113, 115
 Singapore 99, 103, 114–115
 Sint Maarten 25
 Slovakia 79, 89
 Slovenia 79, 89
 Solomon Islands 118, 120, 124, 129
 South Africa 59, 62, 63, 65, 69, 71, 75
 South America 12–14, 36–55
 South Korea 99, 103, 109
 South Sudan 59, 74–75
 Southern Ocean 147
 Spain 78, 84, 88, 90, 92, 94
 Sri Lanka 98, 115
 storms 30, 31, 110, 111
 Strait of Hormuz 146
 Strait of Magellan 41, 142
 Sudan 59, 69, 71, 75
 Suriname 38, 44, 48, 54–55
 Sweden 78, 88
 Switzerland 78, 83, 86, 88

T

Table Mountain 69
 Taiwan 99, 102
 Tajikistan 98, 102
 Taklimakan Desert 106
 Tanganyika, Lake 63, 66
 Tanzania 59, 62, 65, 69, 75

Thailand 99, 103, 109, 114–115
 Tibet, Plateau of 106–107, 112
 Tierra del Fuego 41
 time zones 22, 42, 62, 82, 102, 122
 Titicaca, Lake 40
 Togo 58, 68
 tornadoes 30, 31
 Trinidad and Tobago 19, 35
 Tristan da Cunha 145
 tsunami 147
 Tunisia 58, 64
 Turkey 79, 85, 98, 104
 Turkmenistan 98, 108

U

Ukraine 79, 89
 Uluru (Ayers Rock) 128
 United Kingdom 78, 80, 88, 90, 92, 94
 United States of America 18–35
 Ural Mountains 10, 81
 Uruguay 39, 49, 55
 Uzbekistan 98, 108

V

Vanuatu 118, 120, 129
 Vatican City 78–79
 Venezuela 38, 42, 43, 45, 48, 54
 Victoria, Lake 59, 63, 66
 Victoria Falls 63, 69
 Vietnam 99, 109
 volcanoes 22, 28, 42, 63, 81, 83, 103, 123, 127, 129, 137
 early 7, 10
 oceans and 143, 145, 147

W

waterfalls 23, 29, 42, 47, 48, 63, 69, 83, 103, 123
 wildlife 32–33, 52–53, 72–73, 92–93, 112–113, 132–133, 136–139
 early 8–15

Y Z

Yellowstone Park 33
 Yemen 98, 108, 110
 Zambia 59, 62, 69
 Zimbabwe 59, 69

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Climate data

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Population data

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Paleogeography globes

Derived from original maps produced by Colorado Plateau Geosystems Inc.

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Night time

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Wildlife biomes data

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